

THE
EXPEDITION
OF
HUMPHRY CLINKER.

BY THE AUTHOR OF
RODERIC RANDOM.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

—*Quorsum hæc tam putida tendunt,
Furcifer? ad te, in quam*—

HOR.

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THE
EXPEDITION
OF
Humphry Clinker.

To Dr LEWIS.

I HAVE not found all the benefit I expected at Scarborough, where I have been these eight days — From Harrigate we came hither by the way of York, where we staid only one day to visit the Castle, the Minster, and the assembly room. The first, which was heretofore a fortress, is now converted to a prison, and is the best, in all respects, I ever saw at home or abroad — It stands in a high situation, extremely well ventilated; and has a spacious area within the walls, for the health and convenience of all the prisoners, except those whom it is necessary to secure in close confinement. — Even these last have all the comforts that the nature of their situation can admit. Here the assizes are held, in a range of buildings erected for that purpose.

As for the Minster, I know not how to distinguish it, except by its great size, and the height of

its spire, from those other ancient churches in different parts of the kingdom, which used to be called monuments of Gothic architecture; but it is now agreed, that this stile is Saracen rather than Gothic; and I suppose, it was first imported into England from Spain, great part of which was under the dominion of the Moors. Those British architects, who adopted this stile, don't seem to have considered the propriety of their adoption. The climate of the country, possessed by the Moors or Saracens, both in Africa and Spain, was so exceedingly hot and dry, that those who built places of worship for the multitude, employed their talents in contriving edifices that should be cool; and, for this purpose, nothing could be better adopted than those buildings: vast, narrow, dark, and lofty, empervious to the sun-beams, and having little communication with the scorched external atmosphere; but ever affording a refreshing coolness, like subterranean cellars in the heats of summer, or natural caverns in the bowels of huge mountains. But nothing could be more preposterous, than to imitate such a mode of architecture in a country like England, where the climate is cold, and the air eternally loaded with vapours; and where, of consequence, the builder's intention should be to keep the people dry and warm———For my part, I never entered the Abby-church at Bath but once, and the moment I stooped over the threshold, I found myself chilled to the very marrow of my bones———When we consider, that in our churches, in general, we breathe a gross stagnated air, furcharged with damps from vaults, tombs, and charnel-houses, may we not term them so many magazines of rheums, created for the benefit of the medical faculty? and safely aver, that more bodies are lost, than souls saved, by going to church, in the winter especially, which may be said to engross eight months in the year.

year. I should be glad to know, what offence it would give to tender consciences, if the house of God was made more comfortable, or less dangerous to the health of valetudinarians; and whether it would not be an encouragement to piety, as well as the salvation of many lives, if the place of worship was well floored, wainscotted, warmed, and ventilated, and its area kept sacred from pollution of the dead. The practice of burying in churches was the effect of ignorant superstition, influenced by knavish priests, who pretended that the devil could have no power over the defunct, if he was interred in holy ground; and this, indeed, is the only reason that can be given for consecrating all cemetaries, even at this day.

This external appearance of an old cathedral cannot be but displeasing to the eye of every man, who has any idea of propriety and proportion, even though he may be ignorant of architecture as a science; and the long slender spire puts one in mind of a criminal impaled, with a sharp stake arising up through his shoulder ———— These towers, or steeples, were likewise borrowed from the Mahometans; who having no bells, used such minarets for the purpose of calling the people to prayers ———— They may be of further use, however, for making observations and signals; but I would vote for their being distinct from the body of the church, because they serve only to make the pile more barbarous, or Saracencial.

There is nothing of this Arabic architecture in the Assembly-room, which seems to me to have been built upon a design of Palladio, and might be converted into an elegant place of worship; but it is indifferently contrived for that sort of idolatry which is performed in it at present: the grandeur of the fane gives a diminutive effect to the little

little painted divinities that are adorned in it, and the company, on a ball-night, must look like an assembly of fantastic faries, revelling by moon-light among the columns of a Grecian temple.

Scarborough seems to be falling off, in point of reputation——All these places (Bath excepted) have their vogue, and then the fashion changes——I am persuaded there are fifty spaws in England as efficacious and salutary as that of Scarborough, though they have not yet risen to fame; and, perhaps, never will, unless some medical encomiast should find an interest in displaying their virtues to the public view——Be that as it may, recourse will always be had to this place for the convenience of sea bathing, while this practice prevails; but it were to be wished, they would make the beach more accessible to invalids.

I have here met with my old acquaintance, H——t, whom you have often heard me mention as one of the most original characters upon earth——I first knew him at Venice, and afterwards saw him in different parts of Italy, where he was well known by the nick name of Cavallo Bianco, from his appearing always mounted on a pale horse, like Death in the Revelations. You must remember the account I once gave you of a curious dispute he had at Constantinople, with a couple of Turks, in defence of the Christian religion; a dispute from which he acquired the epithet of Demonstrator——The truth is, H——t owns no religion but that of nature; but, on this occasion, he was stimulated to shew his parts, for the honour of his country——Some years ago, being in the Campidoglio at Rome, he made up to the bust of Jupiter, and, bowing very low, exclaimed in the Italian language, “I hope, Sir, if ever you get your head above water again, you will remember that I paid my respects to you in your adversity.” This folly was reported to the cardinal Camerlengo, and by him laid

laid before the pope Benedict XIV. who could not help laughing at the extravagance of the address, and said to the cardinal, "Those English heretics think they have a right to go to the devil in their own way."

Indeed, H——t was the only Englishman I ever knew, who had resolution enough to live in his own way, in the midst of foreigners; for, neither in dress, diet, customs, or conversation, did he deviate one tittle from the manner in which he had been brought up. About twelve years ago, he began a Giro or circuit, which he thus performed—At Naples, where he fixed his head-quarters, he embarked for Marseilles, from whence he travelled with a voiturin to Antibes. —There he took his passage to Genoa and Lerici; from which last place he proceeded, by the way of Cambratina, to Pisa and Florence—After having halted some time in this metropolis, he set out with a Vetturino for Rome, where he reposed himself a few weeks, and then continued his route for Naples, in order to wait for the next opportunity of embarkation —After having twelve times described this circle, he lately flew off at a tangent to visit some trees at his country house in England, which he had planted above twenty years ago, after the plan of the double colonade in the piazza of St Peter's at Rome —He came hither to Scarborough, to pay his respects to his noble friend and former pupil, the M—— of G—— and, forgetting that he is now turned of seventy, sacrificed so liberally to Bacchus, that next day he was seized with a fit of the apoplexy, which has a little impaired his memory; but he retains all the oddity of his character, in perfection, and is going back to Italy by the way of Geneva, that he may have a conference with his friend Voltaire, about giving the last blow to the Christian superstition— He intends to take shipping here for Holland or
Hamburgh;

Hamburgh; for it is a matter of great indifference to him at what part of the continent he first lands.

When he was going abroad the last time, he took his passage in a ship bound for Leghorn, and his baggage was actually embarked. In going down the river by water, he was by mistake put on board of another vessel under sail; and upon enquiry, understood she was bound to Petersburgh—"Petersburgh,—Peterf-burgh--(said he) I don't care if I go along with you." He forthwith struck a bargain with the captain; bought a couple of shirts of the mate, and was safe conveyed to the court of Muscovy, from whence he travelled by land to receive his baggage at Leghorn. —He is now more likely than ever to execute a whim of the same nature; and I will hold any wager, that as he cannot be supposed to live much longer, according to the course of nature, his exit would be as odd as his life has been extravagant*.

But to return from one humourist to another;
you

* This gentleman crossed the sea to France, visited and conferred with Mr de Voltaire at Fernay, resumed his old circuit at Genoa, and died in 1767, at the house of Vanini in Florence. Being taken with a suppression of urine, he resolved, in imitation of Pomponius Atticus, to take himself off by abstinence; and this resolution he executed like an ancient Roman. He saw company to the last, cracked his jokes, conversed freely, and entertained his guests with music. On the third day of his fast, he found himself entirely freed from his complaint; but refused taking sustenance. He said the most disagreeable part of the voyage was past, and he should be a cursed fool indeed, to put about ship, when he was just entering the harbour. In these sentiments, he persisted, without any marks of affectation, and thus finished his course with such ease and serenity, as would have done honour to the firmest Stoic of antiquity.

you must know I have received benefit, both from the chalybeate and the sea, and would have used them longer, had not a most ridiculous adventure, by making me the town-talk, obliged me to leave the place; for I can't bear the thoughts of affording a spectacle to the multitude.—Yesterday morning, at six o'clock, I went down to the bathing place, attended by my servant Clinker, who waited on the beach as usual

—————The wind blowing from the north, and the weather being hazy, the water proved so chill, that when I rose from my first plunge, I could not help sobbing and bawling out, from the effects of the cold. Clinker, who heard me cry, and saw me indistinctly a good way without the guide, buffeting the waves, took it for granted I was drowning, and rushing into the sea, clothes and all, overturned the guide in his hurry to save his master. I had swam out a few strokes, when hearing a noise, I turned about and saw Clinker, already up to his neck advancing towards me, with all the wildness of terror in his aspect—Afraid he would get out of his depth, I made haste to meet him, when, all of a sudden, he seized me by one ear, and dragged me bellowing with pain upon the dry beach, to the astonishment of all the people, men, women, and children there assembled.

I was so exasperated by the pain of my ear, and the disgrace of being exposed in such an attitude, that in the first transport, I struck him down; then, running back into the sea, took shelter in the machine where my clothes had been deposited. I soon recollected myself so far as to do justice to the poor fellow, who, in great simplicity of heart, had acted from motives of fidelity and affection—Opening the door of the machine, which was immediately drawn ashore, I saw him standing by the wheel, dropping like a water-work, and trembling from head to foot; partly from cold, and partly from the dread of having offended

TO

THE EXPEDITION OF

his master—I made my acknowledgments for the blow he had received, assured him I was not angry, and insisted upon his going home immediately, to shift his clothes: a command which he could hardly find in his heart to execute, so well disposed was he to furnish the mob with further entertainment at my expence. Clinker's intention was laudable without all doubt, but, nevertheless, I am a sufferer by his simplicity—I have had a burning heat, and strange buzzing noise in that ear, ever since it was so roughly treated; and I cannot walk the street without being pointed at, as the monster that was hauled naked ashore upon the beach—Well, I affirm that folly is often more provoking than knavery, ay and more mischievous too; and whether a man had not better choose a sensible rogue, than an honest simpleton for his servant, is no matter of doubt with

Yours,

Scarborough, July 4.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. of Jesus College,
Oxon.

DEAR WATT,

WE made a precipitate retreat from Scarborough, owing to the excessive delicacy of our squire, who cannot bear the thoughts of being *prætereuntium digito monstratus*.

One morning, while he was bathing in the sea, his man Clinker took it in his head that his master was in danger of drowning; and, in this conceit, plunging into the water, he lugged him out naked on the beach, and almost pulled off his ear in the operation. You may guess how this achievement

was relished by Mr Bramble, who is impatient, irascible, and has the most extravagant ideas of decency and decorum in the æconomy of his own person—— In the first ebullition of his choler, he knocked Clinker down with his fist; but he afterwards made him amends for this outrage, and, in order to avoid the further notice of the people, among whom this incident had made him remarkable, he resolved to leave Scarborough next day.

We set out accordingly over the moors, by the way of Whitby, and began our journey betimes in hopes of reaching Stockton that night; but in this hope we were disappointed——In the afternoon, crossing a deep gutter, made by a torrent, the coach was so hard strained, that one of the irons which connected the frame, snapt, and the leather sling on the same side, cracked in the middle——The shock was so great, that my sister Liddy struck her head against Mrs Tabitha's nose with such violence that the blood flowed; and Win. Jenkins was dashed through a small window, in that part of the carriage next the horses, where she stuck like a bawd in the pillory, till she was released by the hand of Mr Bramble. We were eight miles distant from any place where we could be supplied with chaises, and it was impossible to proceed with the coach, until the damage should be repaired——In this dilemma, we discovered a black-smith's forge on the edge of a small common, about half a mile from the scene of our disaster, and thither the postillions made shift to draw the carriage slowly, while the company walked a-foot; but we found the black-smith had been dead some days; and his wife, who had been lately delivered, was deprived of her senses, under the care of a nurse, hired by the parish. We were exceedingly mortified at this disappointment, which, however, was surmounted by the help of Humphry Clinker; who is a surprising compound of genius and simplicity.

Finding the tools of the defunct, together with some coals in the smithy, he unscrewed the damaged iron in a twinkling, and, kindling a fire, united the broken pieces with equal dexterity and dispatch—While he was at work upon this operation, the poor woman in the straw, struck with the well known sound of the hammer and anvil, started up, and, notwithstanding all the nurse's efforts, came running into the smithy, where, throwing her arms about Clinker's neck, "Ah, Jacob! (cried she) how could you leave me in such a condition?"

This incident was too pathetic to occasion mirth——it brought tears into the eyes of all present. The poor widow was put to bed again; and we did not leave the village without doing something for her benefit:——Even Tabitha's charity was awakened on this occasion. As for the tender-hearted Humphry Clinker, he hammered the iron and wept at the same time—But his ingenuity was not confined to his own province of farrier and black-smith—It was necessary to join the leather sling, which had been broke; and this service he likewise performed, by means of a broken awl, which he new-pointed and ground, a little hemp which he spun into lingles, and a few tacks which he made for the purpose——Upon the whole, we were in a condition to proceed in little more than an hour; but even this delay obliged us to pass the night at Gisborough——Next day we crossed Tees at Stockton, which is a neat agreeable town; and there we resolved to dine, with purpose to lie at Durham.

Whom should we meet in the yard, when we alighted, but Martin the adventurer? Having handed out the ladies, and conducted them into an apartment, where he paid his compliments to Mrs Tabby, with his usual address, he begged leave to speak to my uncle in another room; and there, in
some

some confusion, he made an apology for having taken the liberty to trouble him with a letter at Stevenage. He expressed his hope, that Mr Bramble had bestowed some consideration on his unhappy case, and repeated his desire of being taken into his service.

My uncle, calling me into the room, told him, that we were both very well inclined to rescue him from a way of life that was equally dangerous and dishonourable; and that he should have no scruples in trusting to his gratitude and fidelity, if he had any employment for him, which he thought would suit his qualifications and his circumstances; but that all the departments he had mentioned in his letter, were filled up by persons of whose conduct he had no reason to complain; of consequence he could not, without injustice, deprive any one of them of his bread——Nevertheless, he declared himself ready to assist him in any feasible project, either with his purse or credit.

Martin seemed deeply touched at this declaration——The tear started in his eye, while he said, in a faltering accent——“Worthy Sir——your generosity oppresses me——I never dreamed of troubling you for any pecuniary assistance——Indeed I have no occasion——I have been so lucky at billiards and betting in different places, at Buxton, Harrigate, Scarborough, and Newcastle races, that my stock in ready money amounts to three hundred pounds, which I would willingly employ in prosecuting some honest scheme of life; but my friend, Justice Buzzard, has set so many springs for my life, that I am under the necessity of either retiring immediately to a remote part of the country, where I can enjoy the protection of some generous patron, or of quitting the kingdom altogether——It is upon this alternative that I now beg leave to ask your advice——I

“ have had information of all your route, since I had
“ the honour to see you at Stevenage; and supposing
“ you would come this way from Scarborough, I came
“ hither last night from Darlington, to pay you my
“ respects.”

“ It would be no difficult matter to provide you
“ with an asylum in the country (replied my uncle);
“ but a life of indolence and obscurity would not
“ suit with your active and enterprising disposition——
“ I would, therefore, advise you to try
“ your fortune in the East-Indies—— I will give
“ you a letter to a friend in London, who will recommend
“ you to the directors, for a commission in the
“ company’s service; and if that cannot be obtained,
“ you will at least be received as a volunteer——
“ in which case, you may pay for your passage,
“ and I shall undertake to procure you such credentials,
“ that you will not be long without a commission.”

Martin embraced the proposal with great eagerness; it was therefore resolved, that he should sell his horse, and take a passage by sea for London, to execute the project without delay——In the mean time, he accompanied us to Durham, where we took up our quarters for the night——Here, being furnished with letters from my uncle, he took his leave of us, with strong symptoms of gratitude and attachment, and set out for Sunderland, in order to embark in the first collier bound for the river Thames. He had not been gone half an hour, when we were joined by another character, which promised something extraordinary——A tall, meagre figure, answering, with his horse, the description of Don Quixote mounted on Rozinante, appeared in the twilight at the inn-door, while my aunt and Liddy stood at the window in the dining room——He wore a coat, the cloth of which had once been scarlet, trimmed with Brandenburgs,

burgs, now totally deprived of their metal, and he had holster-caps and housings of the same stuff and same antiquity. Perceiving ladies at the window above, he endeavoured to dismount with the most graceful air he could assume; but the hostler neglecting to hold the stirrup when he wheeled off his right foot, and stood with his whole weight on the other, the girth unfortunately gave way, the saddle turned, down came the cavalier to the ground, and his hat and periwig falling off, displayed a head-piece of various colours, patched and plastered in a woeful condition—The ladies, at the window above, shrieked with affright, on the supposition that the stranger had received some notable damages in his fall; but the greatest injury he had sustained arose from the dishonour of his descent, aggravated by the disgrace of exposing the condition of his cranium; for certain plebeians that were about the door, laughed aloud, in the belief that the Captain had got either a scald head, or a broken head, both equally opprobrious.

He forthwith leaped up in a fury, and snatching one of his pistols, threatened to put the hostler to death, when another squall from the women checked his resentment. He then bowed to the window, while he kissed the butt-end of his pistol, which he replaced; adjusted his wig in great confusion, and led his horse into the stable——By this time I had come to the door, and could not help gazing at the strange figure that presented itself to my view——He would have measured above six feet in height, had he stood upright; but he stooped very much; was very narrow in the shoulders, and very thick in the calves of his legs, which were cased in black spatterdashes——As for his thighs, they were long and slender, like those of a grasshopper; his face was, at least, half a yard in length, brown and shrivelled, with projecting cheek-

cheek-bones, little gray eyes on the greenish hue, a large hook nose, a pointed chin, a mouth from ear to ear, very ill furnished with teeth, and a high, narrow forehead, well furrowed with wrinkles. His horse was exactly in the stile of his rider; a resurrection of dry bones, which (as we afterwards learned) he valued exceedingly, as the only present he had ever received in his life.

Having seen this favourite steed properly accommodated in the stable, he sent up his compliments to the ladies, begging permission to thank them in person for the marks of concern they had shewn at his disaster in the court yard—As the squire said, they could not decently decline his visit, he was shewn up stairs, and paid his respects in the Scots dialogue, with much formality—"Leddies, (said he) perhaps "you may be scandaleezed at the appearance my head "made, when it was uncovered by accident; but I "can assure you, the condition you saw it in, is neither the effects of disease, nor of drunkenness; "but an honest scar received in the service of my "country." He then gave us to understand, that having been wounded at Ticonderago, in America, a party of Indians rifled him, scalped him, broke his skull with the blow of a tomahawk, and left him for dead on the field of battle; but that being afterwards found with signs of life, he had been cured in the French hospital, though the loss of substance could not be repaired; so that the skull was left naked in several places, and these he covered with patches.

There is no hold by which an Englishman is sooner taken than that of compassion——We were immediately interested in behalf of this veteran——Even Abby's heart was melted; but our pity was warmed with indignation, when we learned, that in the course of two sanguinary wars, he had been wounded,

wounded, maimed, mutilated, taken, and enslaved, without ever having attained a higher rank than that of lieutenant——My uncle's eyes gleamed, and his nether lip quivered, while he exclaimed, "I vow to God, Sir, your case is a reproach to the service——" "The injustice you have met with is so flagrant"——"I must crave your pardon, Sir, (replied the other, interrupting him) I complain of no injustice, "———"I purchased an ensigncy thirty years ago; "and in the course of service rose, to be a lieutenant, according to my seniority——" "But in such a length of time, (resumed the 'squire) you must have seen a great many young officers put over your head——" "Nevertheless, (said he) I have no cause to murmur——They bought their preferment with their money——I had no money to carry to market——that was my misfortune; but nobody was to blame.——" What! no friend to advance a sum of money? (said Mr Bramble.)" "Perhaps I might have borrowed money for the purchase of a company (answered the other); but that loan must have been refunded; and I did not chuse to incumber myself with a debt of a thousand pounds, to be paid from an income of ten shillings a-day." So you have spent the best part of your life, (cried Mr Bramble) your youth, your blood, and your constitution, amidst the dangers, the difficulties, the horrors and hardships of war, for the consideration of three or four shillings a-day "———"a consideration——" "Sir (replied the Scot, with great warmth) you are the man that does me injustice, if you say or think I have been actuated by any such paltry consideration——I am a gentleman; and entered the service as other gentlemen do, with such hopes and sentiments as honourable ambition inspires——If I have not been lucky in the

"lottery

“lottery of life, so neither do I think myself unfortunate—I owe to no man a farthing; I can always command a clean shirt, a mutton-chop, and a truss of straw; and when I die, I shall leave effects sufficient to defray the expence of my burial.”

My uncle assured him, he had no intention to give him the least offence, by the observations he had made; but, on the contrary, spoke from a sentiment of friendly regard to his interest ——— The lieutenant thanked him with a stiffness of civility, which nettled our old gentleman, who perceived that his moderation was all affected; for whatsoever his tongue might declare, his whole appearance denoted dissatisfaction.—In short, without pretending to judge of his military merit, I think I may affirm, that this Caledonian is a self-conceited pedant, awkward, rude, and disputacious.—He has had the benefit of a school education, seems to have read a good number of books, his memory is tenacious, and he pretends to speak several different languages; but he is so addicted to wrangling, that he will cavil at the clearest truths, and, in the pride of argumentation, attempt to reconcile contradictions.—Whether his address and qualifications are really of that stamp which is agreeable to the taste of our aunt, Mrs Tabitha, or that indefatigable maiden is determined to shoot at every sort of game, certain it is, she has begun to practise upon the heart of the lieutenant, who favoured us with his company to supper.

I have many other things to say of this man of war which I shall communicate in a post or two; meanwhile, it is but reasonable that you should be indulged with some respite from those weary lucubrations of

Yours

Newcastle upon Tyne, }
July 10. }

J. MELFORD.

To

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. of Jesus College,
Oxon.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

IN my last, I treated you with a high flavoured dish, in the character of the Scots lieutenant, and I must present him once more for your entertainment. It was our fortune to feed upon him the best part of three days; and I do not doubt that he will start again in our way before we shall have finished our northren excursion. The day after our meeting with him at Durham proved so tempestuous that we did not chuse to proceed on our journey: and my uncle persuaded him to stay till the weather should clear up, giving him, at the same time, a general invitation to our mess. The man has certainly gathered a whole budget of shrewd observations, but he brings them forth in such an ungracious manner as would be extremely disgusting, if it was not marked by that characteristic oddity which never fails to attract the attention——He and Mr Bramble discoursed, and even disputed, on different subjects in war, policy, the belles lettres, law, and metaphysics; and sometimes they were warmed into such altercation as seemed to threaten an abrupt dissolution of their society; but Mr Bramble set a guard over his own irascibility, the more vigilantly as the officer was his guest; and when, in spite of all his efforts, he began to wax warm, the other prudently cooled in the same proportion.

Mrs Tabitha chancing to accost her brother by the familiar diminutive of Matt, "Pray, Sir; (said the lieutenant) is your name Matthias?" You must know, it is one of our uncle's foibles to be
ashamed

ashamed of his name Matthew, because it is puritanical; and this question chagrined him so much, that he answered, "No, by G—d!" in a very abrupt tone of displeasure,——The Scot took umbrage at the manner of this reply, and bristling up, "If I had known (said he) that you did not care to tell your name I should not have asked the question——" "The leddy called you Matt, and I naturally thought it was Matthias:———perhaps, it may be Methuselah, or Metrodorus, or Metellus, or Mathurinus, or Malthinnus, or Matamorus, or———" "No, (cried my uncle laughing) it is neither of those, Captain:———my name is Matthew Bramble, at your service.———The truth is, I have a foolish pique at the name of Matthew, because it favours of those canting hypocrites, who in Cromwell's time, christened all their children by names taken from the scripture."———A foolish pique, indeed, (cried Mrs Tabby) and even sinful, to fall out with your name because it is taken from holy writ.———I would have you to know, you was called after great-uncle Matthew ap Madoc ap Meredith, esquire, of Lanwysihin, in Montgomeryshire, justice of the *quorum*, and *crusty rattleorum*, a gentleman of great worth and property, descended in a straight line, by the female side, from Llewellyn, "prince of Wales."

This genealogical anecdote seemed to make some impression upon the North Briton, who bowed very low to the descendants of Llewellyn, and observed that he himself had the honour of a scriptural nomination. The lady expressing a desire of knowing his address, he said, he designed himself Lieutenant Obadiah Lismahago; and, in order to assist her memory, he presented her with a slip of paper inscribed with these three words, which he repeated with great emphasis, declaring, it was one of the most noble

noble and sonorous names she had ever heard. He observed that Obadiah was an adventitious appellation, derived from his great grandfather, who had been one of the original covenanters; but Lismahago was the family-surname, taken from a place in Scotland so called. He likewise dropped some hints about the antiquity of his pedigree, adding, with a smile of self denial, *Sed genus et proavos, et que non fecimus ipse, vix ea nostra voco*, which quotation he explained in deference to the ladies; and Mrs Tabitha did not fail to compliment him on his modesty in waving the merit of his ancestry, adding, that was the less necessary to him, as he had such a considerable fund of his own. She now began to glew herself to his favour with the grossest adulation—She expatiated upon the antiquity and virtues of the Scottish nation, upon their valour, probity, learning, and politeness.—She even descended to encomiums on his own personal address, his gallantry, good sense and erudition—She appealed to her brother, whether the Captain was not the very image of our cousin Governor Griffith—She discovered a surprising eagerness to know the particulars of his life, and asked a thousand questions concerning his achievements in war; all which Mr Lismahago answered with a sort of jesuitical reserve, affecting reluctance to satisfy her curiosity on a subject that concerned his own exploits.

By dint of her interrogations, however, we learned, that he and ensign Murphy had made their escape from the French hospital at Montreal, and taken to the woods, in hope of reaching some English settlement; but, mistaking their route, they fell in with a party of Miamis, who carried them away in captivity. The intention of these Indians was to give one of them as an adopted son to a venerable sachem, who had lost his own in the course of the war, and to sacrifice the other according to the custom of the

country. Murphy, as being the younger and handfomer of the two, was designed to fill the place of the deceased, not only as the son of the sachem, but as the spouse of a beautiful squaw, to whom his predecessor had been betrothed; but in passing through the different wigwams, or villages of the Miâmis, poor Murphy was so mangled by the women and children, who have the privilege of torturing all prisoners in their passage, that, by the time they arrived at the place of the sachem's residence, he was rendered altogether unfit for the purposes of marriage? it was determined therefore, in the assembly of the warriors, that ensign Murphy should be brought to the stake, and that the lady should be given to Lieutenant Lismahago, who had likewise received his share of torments, though they had not produced emasculation.——A joint of one finger had been cut, or rather sawed off with a rusty knife; one of his great toes was crushed into a mash between two stones; some of his teeth were drawn, or dug out with a crooked nail; splintered reeds had been thrust up his nostrils and other tender parts; and the calves of his legs had been blown up with mines of gun-powder dug in the flesh with the sharp point of the tomahawk.

The Indians themselves allowed that Murphy died with great heroism, singing, as his death song, the *Drimmendoo*, in concert with Mr Lismahago, who was present at the solemnity. After the warriors and the matrons had made a hearty meal upon the muscular flesh, which they parted from the victim, and had applied a great variety of tortures, which he bore without flinching, an old lady, with a sharp knife, scooped out one of his eyes, and put a burning coal in the sock. The pain of this operation was so exquisite, that he could not help bellowing, upon which the audience raised a shout of exultation, and

and one of the warriors stealing behind him, gave him the *coupe de grace* with a hatchet.

Lismahago's bride, the squaw Squinskinacoosta, distinguished herself on this occasion.——She shewed a great superiority of genius in the tortures, which she contrived and executed with her own hands——She vied with the stoutest warrior in eating the flesh of the sacrifice : and after all the other females were fuddled with dram drinking, she was not so intoxicated but that she was able to play the game of the platter with the conjuring sachem, and afterwards go through the ceremony of her own wedding, which was consummated that same evening. The Captain had lived very happily with this accomplished squaw for two years, during which she bore him a son, who is now the representative of his mother's tribe ; but, at length, to his unspeakable grief, she died of a fever, occasioned by eating too much raw bear, which they had killed in a hunting excursion.

By this time, Mr Lismahago was elected sachem, acknowledged first warrior of the Badger tribe, and dignified with the name or epithet of Occacanastogarora, which signifies *nimble as a weazel* ; but all these advantages and honours he was obliged to resign, in consequence of being exchanged for the orator of the community, who had been taken prisoner by the Indians that were in alliance with the English. At the peace, he had sold out upon half-pay, and was returned to Britain, with a view to pass the rest of his life in his own country, where he hoped to find some retreat where his slender finances would afford him a decent subsistence. Such are the out lines of Mr Lismahago's history, to which Tabitha *did seriously incline her ear* ;—indeed, she seemed to be taken with the same charms that captivated the heart of Desdemona, who loved the Moor *for the dangers he had past*.

The description of poor Murphy's sufferings, which threw my sister Liddy into a swoon, extracted some sighs from the breast of Mrs Tabby: when she understood he had been rendered unfit for marriage, she began to spit, and ejaculated, "Jesus, what cruel barbarians!" and she made wry faces at the lady's nuptial repast; but she was eagerly curious to know the particulars of her marriage dress; whether she wore high-breasted stays or boddice, a robe of silk or velvet, and laces of Mechlin or minionette—she supposed, as they were connected with the French, she used *rouge*, and had her hair dressed in the Parisian fashion. The Captain would have declined giving a categorical explanation of all these particulars, observing, in general, that the Indians were too tenacious of their own customs to adopt the modes of any nation whatsoever: he said, moreover, that neither the simplicity of their manners, nor the commerce of their country, would admit of those articles of luxury which are deemed magnificence in Europe; and that they were too virtuous and sensible to encourage the introduction of any fashion which might help to render them corrupt and effeminate.

These observations served only to inflame her desire of knowing the particulars about which she had enquired; and, with all his evasion, he could not help discovering the following circumstances——that his princess had neither shoes, stockings, shift, nor any kind of linen——that her bridal-dress consisted of a petticoat of red bays, and a fringed blanket, fastened about her shoulders with a copper skewer; but of ornaments she had great plenty——Her hair was curiously platted, and interwoven with bobbins of human bone——one eye lid was painted green, and the other yellow; the cheeks were blue, the lips white, the teeth red, and there was a black list drawn down the middle of the forehead as far as the

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the tip of the nose——a couple of gaudy parrot's feathers were stuck through the division of the nostrils——there was a blue stone set in the chin——her ear-rings consisted of two pieces of hickery, of the size and shape of drumsticks——her arms and legs were adorned with bracelets of wampum——her breast glittered with numerous strings of glass beads——she wore a curious pouch, or pocket, of woven grass, elegantly painted with various colours——about her neck was hung the fresh scalp of a Mohawk warrior, whom her deceased lover had slain in battle——and, finally, she was anointed from head to foot with bear's grease, which sent forth a most agreeable odour.

One would imagine that these paraphernalia would not have been much admired by a modern fine lady; but Mrs Tabitha was resolved to approve of all the captain's connections.——She wished, indeed, the squaw had been better provided with linen; but she owned there was much taste and fancy in her ornaments; she made no doubt, therefore, that madam Squinkinacoosta was a young lady of good sense and rare accomplishments, and a good Christian at bottom. Then she asked whether his consort had been high-church or low-church, presbyterian or anabaptist, or had been favoured with any glimmering of the new light of the gospel? When he confessed that she and her whole nation were utter strangers to the Christian faith, she gazed at him with signs of astonishment; and Humphry Clinker, who chanced to be in the room, uttered a hollow groan.

After some pause “In the name of God, captain Lismahago, (cried she) what religion, do they profess?” “As to religion, madam, (answered the lieutenant) it is among those Indians a matter of great simplicity——they never heard of any *Alliance between Church and State*.——They,

“in general, worship two contending principles; one
 “the fountain of all Good, the other the source of
 “evil.—The common people there, as in other coun-
 “tries, run into the absurdities of superstition; but
 “sensible men pay adoration to a Supreme Being, who
 “created and sustains the universe.” “O! what pi-
 “ty, (exclaimed the pious Tabby) that some holy man
 “had not been inspired to go and convert these poor
 “heathens!”

The lieutenant told her, that while he resided among them, two French missionaries arrived, in order to convert them to the Catholic religion; but when they talked of mysteries and revelations, which they could neither explain nor authenticate, and called in the evidence of miracles which they believed upon hearsay; when they taught, that the Supreme Creator of heaven and earth had allowed his only Son, his own equal in power and glory, to enter the bowels of a woman, to be born as a human creature, to be insulted, flagellated, and even executed as a malefactor; when they pretended to create God himself, to swallow, digest, revive, and multiply him *ad infinitum*, by the help of a little flour and water, the Indians were shocked at the impiety of their presumption.— — — — — They were examined by the assembly of the sachems, who desired them to prove the divinity of their mission by some miracle.— — — — — They answered, that it was not in their power.— — — — — “If you were really sent
 “by Heaven for our conversion, (said one of the sa-
 “chems) you would certainly have some supernatu-
 “ral endowments, at least, you would have the gift
 “of tongues, in order to explain your doctrine to the
 “different nations among which you are employed;
 “but you are so ignorant of our language, that you
 “cannot express yourselves even on the most trifling
 “subjects.”

In a word, the assembly were convinced of their being cheats, and even suspected them of being spies: —they ordered them a bag of Indian corn a-piece, and appointed a guide to conduct them to the frontiers; but the missionaries having more zeal than discretion, refused to quit the vineyard. — They persisted in saying mass, in preaching, baptizing, and squabbling with the conjurers, or priests of the country, till they had thrown the whole community into confusion. — Then the assembly proceeded to try them as impious impostors, who represented the Almighty as a trifling, weak, capricious being, and pretended to make, unmake, and reproduce him at pleasure: they were, therefore, convicted of blasphemy and sedition, and condemned to the stake, where they died singing *Salva regina*, in a rapture of joy, for the crown of martyrdom which they had thus obtained.

In the course of this conversation, lieutenant Lismahago dropt some hints, by which it appeared he himself was a free-thinker. Our aunt seemed to be startled at certain sarcasms he threw out against the creed of saint Athanasius—He dwelt much upon the words, *reason, philosophy, and contradiction in terms*—he bid defiance to the eternity of hell-fire; and even threw such squibs at the immortality of the soul, as singed a little the whiskers of Mrs Tabitha's faith; for, by this time, she began to look upon Lismahago as a prodigy of learning and sagacity. —In short, he could be no longer insensible to the advances she made towards his affection; and, although there was something repulsive in his nature, he overcame it so far as to make some return to her civilities. — Perhaps, he thought it would be no bad scheme, in a superannuated lieutenant on half pay, to affect a conjunction with an old maid, who, in all probability, had fortune enough to keep him easy and comfortable in the sag-end of his days. — An ogling correspondence

pondence forthwith commenced between this amiable pair of originals.——He began to sweeten the natural acidity of his discourse with the treacle of compliment and commendation.——He from time to time offered her snuff, of which he himself took great quantities, and even made her a present of a purse of silk-grass, woven by the hands of the amiable Squinkinacoofta, who had used it as a shot-pouch in her hunting expeditions.

From Doncaster northwards, all the windows of all the inns are scrawled with doggrel rhimes, in abuse of the Scots nation; and what surpris'd me very much, I did not perceive one line written in the way of recrimination.——Curious to hear what Lismahago would say on this subject, I pointed out to him a very scurrilous epigram against his countrymen, which was engraved on one of the windows of the parlour where we sat.——He read it with the most starched composure; and when I asked his opinion of the poetry, “It is vara terse and vara poignant” (he said), but, with the help of a wat dish clout, it “might be rendered more clear and perspicuous—” “I marvel much that some modern wit has not published a collection of those essays under the title of “the *Glazier's Triumph over Sawny the Scot*—I’m persuaded it would be a vara agreeable offering to “the patriots of London and Westminster.” When I expressed some surprise that the natives of Scotland, who travel this way, had not broke all the windows upon the road. “With submission, (replied the lieutenant) that were but shallow policy——it would “only serve to make the satire more cutting and “severe; and, I think, it is much better to let it “stand in the window, than have it presented in the “reckoning.”

My uncle’s jaws began to quiver with indignation.——He said, the scribblers of such infamous
stuff

stuff deserved to be scourged at the cart's tail for disgracing their country with such monuments of malice and stupidity ——— "These vermin (said he) do not consider that they are affording their fellow subjects, whom they abuse, continual matter of self-gratulation, as well as the means of executing the most manly vengeance that can be taken for such low, illiberal attacks. For my part, I admire the philosophic forbearance of the Scots, as much as I despise the insolence of those wretched libellers, which is a-kin to the arrogance of the village-cock, who never crows but upon his own dunghill." The captain, with an affectation of candour, observed, that men of illiberal minds were produced in every soil; that in supposing those were the sentiments of the English in general, he should pay too great a compliment to his own country, which was not of consequence enough to attract the envy of such a flourishing and powerful people.

Mrs Tabby broke forth again in praise of his moderation, and declared that Scotland was the soil which produced every virtue under heaven. ——— When Lismahago took his leave for the night, she asked her brother if the captain was not the prettiest gentleman he had ever seen; and whether there was not something wonderful engaging in his aspect? — Mr Bramble having eyed her some time in silence, "Sister, (said he) the lieutenant is, for aught I know, an honest man, and a good officer—he has a considerable share of understanding, and a title to more encouragement than he seems to meet with in life; but I cannot, with a safe conscience, affirm, that he is the prettiest gentleman I ever saw; neither can I discern any engaging charm in his countenance, which, I vow to God, is on the contrary, exceedingly hard-favoured, and forbidding."

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I have endeavoured to ingratiate myself with this North-Britain, who is really a curiosity; but he has been very shy of my conversation, ever since I laughed at his asserting that the English tongue was spoke with more propriety at Edinburgh than at London. Looking at me with a double squeeze of frowning in his aspect, "If the old definition be true (said he) "that risibility is the distinguishing characteristic "of a rational creature, the English are the most distinguished for rationality of any people I ever "knew." I owned that the English were easily struck with any thing that appeared ludicrous, and apt to laugh accordingly; but it did not follow, that, because they were more given to laughter, they had more rationality than their neighbours; I said, such an inference would be an injury to the Scots, who were, by no means defective in rationality, though generally supposed little subject to the impressions of humour.

The captain answered, that this supposition must have been deduced either from their conversation or their compositions, of which the English could not possibly judge with precision, as they did not understand the dialect used by the Scots in common discourse, as well as in their works of humour. When I desired to know what those works of humour were, he mentioned a considerable number of pieces, which he insisted were equal in point of humour to any thing extant in any language dead or living———He, in particular, recommended a collection of detached poems, in two small volumes, entitled, *The Ever-green*, and the works of Allan Ramfay, which I intend to provide myself with at Edinburgh———He observed, that a North-Britain is seen to a disadvantage in an English company, because he speaks in a dialect that they can't relish, and in a phraseology which they don't understand.———He, therefore, finds himself under

under a restraint, which is a great enemy to wit and humour.—These are faculties which never appear in full lustre, but when the mind is perfectly at ease, and, as an excellent writer says, enjoys *her elbow room*.

He proceeded to explain his assertion, that the English language was spoken with greater propriety at Edinburgh than in London.—He said, what we generally called the Scottish dialect was in fact, true, genuine old English, with a mixture of some French terms and idioms, adopted in a long intercourse betwixt the French and Scots nations; that the modern English, from affectation and false refinement, had weakened, and even corrupted their language, by throwing out the guttural sounds, altering the pronunciation and the quantity, and diffusing many words and terms of great significance. In consequence of these innovations, the works of our best poets, such as Chaucer, Spenser, and even Shakespeare, were become, in many parts, unintelligible to the natives of South-Britain, whereas the Scots, who retain the ancient language, understand them without the help of a glossary. “For instance (said he) how have your commentators been puzzled by the following expression in the *Tempest*—*He’s gentle, and not fearful*; as if it was a paralogism to say, that being *gentle*, he must of course be *courageous*; but the truth is, one of the original meanings, if not the sole meaning, of that word was, *noble high-minded*; and to this day, a Scots woman, in the situation of the young lady in the *Tempest*, would express herself nearly in the same terms—Don’t provoke him; for being *gentle*, that is, *high spirited*, he won’t tamely bear an insult. Spencer, in the very first stanza of his *Fairy Queen*, says,

“*A gentle knight was pricking on the plain;*”

“which

" which knight, far from being *tame* and fearful was
 " so stout that

" *Nothing did he dread, but ever was ydrad.*"

To prove that we had impaired the energy of our language by false refinement, he mentioned the following words, which, though widely different in signification, are pronounced exactly in the same manner — *wright, write, right, rite* ; but among the Scots, these words are as different in pronunciation, as they are in meaning and orthography ; and this is the case with many others which he mentioned by way of illustration — He, moreover, took notice, that we had (for what reason he could never learn) altered the sound of our vowels from that which is retained by all the nations in Europe ; an alteration which rendered the language extremely difficult to foreigners, and made it almost impracticable to lay down general rules for orthography and pronunciation. Besides, the vowels were no longer simple sounds in the mouth of an Englishman, who pronounced both *i* and *u* as diphthongs. Finally, he affirmed, that we mumbled our speech with our lips and teeth, and ran the words together without pause or distinction, in such a manner, that a foreigner, though he understood English tolerably well, was often obliged to have recourse to a Scotsman, to explain what a native of England had said in his own language.

The truth of this remark was confirmed by Mr Bramble from his own experience, but he accounted for it on another principle. — He said the same observation would hold in all languages ; that a Swiss talking French was more easily understood than a Parisian, by a foreigner who had not made himself master of the language ; because every language has its peculiar recitative, and it would always require more pains, attention, and practice, to acquire both the words and the music than to learn

learn the words only; and yet nobody would deny, that the one is imperfect without the other; he therefore, apprehended, that the Scotsman and the Swiss were better understood by learners, because they spoke the words only, without the music, which they could not rehearse. One would imagine this check might have damped the North-Briton; but it served only to agitate his humour for disputation———He said, if every nation had its own recitative or music, the Scots had theirs, and the Scotsman, who had not yet acquired the cadence of the English, would naturally use his own in speaking their language; therefore, if he was better understood than the native, his recitative must be more intelligible than that of the English; of consequence the dialect of the Scots had an advantage over that of their fellow-subjects, and this was another strong presumption that the modern English had corrupted their language in the article of pronunciation.

The lieutenant was, by this time, become so polemical, that every time he opened his mouth out flew a paradox, which he maintained with all the enthusiasm of altercation; but all his paradoxes favoured strong of a partiality for his own country. He undertook to prove that poverty was a blessing to a nation; that *oatmeal* was preferable to *wheat-flour*; and that the worship of Cloacina, in temples which admitted both sexes, and every rank of votaries promiscuously, was a filthy species of idolatry that outraged every idea of delicacy and decorum. I did not so much wonder at his broaching these doctrines, as the arguments, equally whimsical and ingenious, which he adduced in support of them.

In fine, lieutenant Lismahago is a curiosity which I have not yet sufficiently perused; and, therefore, I shall be sorry when we lose his company, though,

God knows, there is nothing very amiable in his manner or disposition—As he goes directly to the south-west division of Scotland, and we proceed in the road to Berwick, we shall part to morrow at a place called Felton-bridge; and, I dare say, this separation will be very grievous to our aunt Mrs Tabitha, unless she has received some flattering assurance of his meeting her again. If I fail in my purpose of entertaining you with these unimportant occurrences, they will at least serve as exercises of patience, for which you are indebted to

Yours always,

Morpeth, July 13.

J. MELFORD.

To Dr LEWIS.

DEAR DOCTOR,

I HAVE now reached the northern extremity of England, and see, close to my chamber-window, the Tweed gliding through the arches of that bridge which connects this suburb to the town of Berwick. ——— Yorkshire you have seen, and therefore, I shall say nothing of that opulent province. The city of Durham appears like a confused heap of stones and brick, accumulated so as to cover a mountain, round which a river winds its brawling course. The streets are generally narrow, dark, and unpleasant, and many of them almost impassible in consequence of their declivity. The cathedral is a huge gloomy pile; but the clergy are well lodged.——The bishop lives in a princely manner—the golden prebends keep plentiful tables——and, I am told, there is some good sociable company in the place; but the country, when viewed

viewed from the top of Gateshead-Fell, which extends to Newcastle, exhibits the highest scene of cultivation that ever I beheld. As for Newcastle, it lies mostly in a bottom, on the banks of the Tyne, and makes an appearance still more disagreeable than that of Durham; but it is rendered populous and rich by industry and commerce; and the country lying on both sides the river, above the town, yields a delightful prospect of agriculture and plantations. Morpeth and Alnwick are neat, pretty towns, and this last is famous for the castle which has belonged so many ages to the noble house of Percy, earls of Northumberland.—It is doubtless, a large edifice, containing a great number of apartments, and stands in a commanding situation; but the strength of it seems to have consisted not so much in its site, or the manner in which it is fortified, as in the valour of its defendants.

Our adventures, since we left Scarborough are scarce worth reciting; and yet I must make you acquainted with my sister Tabby's progress of husband hunting, after her disappointments at Bath and London. She had actually begun to practise upon a certain adventurer, who was in fact a highwayman by profession; but he had been used to snares much more dangerous than any she could lay, and escaped accordingly.—Then she opened her batteries upon an old weather-beaten Scots lieutenant, called Lismahago, who joined us at Durham, and is, I think, one of the most singular personages I ever encountered.—His manner is as harsh as his countenance; but his peculiar turn of thinking, and his pack of knowledge, made up of the remains of rarities, rendered his conversation desirable, in spite of his pedantry and ungracious address.—I have often met with a crab apple in a hedge, which I have been tempted to eat for its flavour, even while I was disgusted by its austerity. The spirit of contradiction is naturally so strong in Lismahago, that I believe in my conscience he has

rummaged, and read, and studied with indefatigable attention, in order to qualify himself to refute established maxims, and thus raise trophies for the gratification of his polemical pride.—Such is the asperity of his self conceit, that he will not even acquiesce in a transient compliment made to his own individual in particular, or to his country in general.

When I observed, that he must have read a vast number of books to be able to discourse on such a variety of subjects, he declared he had read little or nothing, and asked how he should find books among the woods of America, where he had spent the greatest part of his life. My nephew remarking that the Scots in general were famous for their learning, he denied the imputation, and defied him to prove it from their works.—“The Scots (said he) have a “slight tincture of letters, with which they make a “parade among people who are more illiterate than “themselves; but they may be said to float on the “surface of science, and they have made very small “advances in the useful arts.” “At least (cried Tabby) “all the world allows that the Scots behaved “gloriously in fighting and conquering the savages of “America.” “I can assure you, Madam, you have “been misinformed (replied the lieutenant); in that “continent the Scots did nothing more than their “duty, nor was there one corps in his Majesty’s service that distinguished itself more than another.— “Those who affected to extol the Scots for superior “merit were no friends to that nation.”

Though he himself made free with his countrymen, he would not suffer any other person to glance a sarcasm at them with impunity. One of the company chancing to mention lord B—’s inglorious peace, the lieutenant immediately took up the cudgels in his lordship’s favour, and argued very strenuously to prove that it was the most honourable
and

and advantageous peace that England had ever made since the foundation of the monarchy. ———
Nay, between friends, he offered such reasons on this subject, that I was really confounded, if not convinced. ——— He would not allow that the Scots abounded above their proportion in the army and navy of Great Britain, or that the English had any reason to say his countrymen had met with extraordinary encouragement in the service. ——— “When a
“South and North Briton (said he) are competitors
“for a place or commission, which is in the disposal
“of an English minister, or an English general, it
“would be absurd to suppose that the preference will
“not be given to the native of England, who has so
“many advantages over his rival ——— First and fore-
“most, he has in his favour that laudible partiality,
“which, Mr Addison says, never fails to cleave to
“the heart of an Englishman; secondly he has more
“powerful connections, and a greater share of par-
“liamentary interest, by which those contests are ge-
“nerally decided; and lastly, he has a greater com-
“mand of money to smooth the way to his success.
“For my own part (said he) I know no Scots of-
“ficer, who has risen in the army above the rank
“of a subaltern, without purchasing every degree of
“preferment either with money or recruits; but I
“know many a gentleman of that country, who, for
“want of money and interest, have grown gray in
“the rank of lieutenants; whereas very few in-
“stances of this ill-fortune are to be found among the
“natives of South-Britain. ——— Not that I would
“insinuate that my countrymen have the least reason
“to complain. ——— Preferment in the service, like suc-
“cess in any other branch of traffic, will naturally fa-
“vour those who have the greatest stock of cash and
“credit, merit and capacity being supposed equal on
“all sides.”

But the most hardy of all this original's positions were these;—That commerce would, sooner or later, prove the ruin of every nation, where it flourishes to any extent—that the parliament was the rotten part of the British constitution—that the liberty of the press was a national evil—and that the boasted institution of juries, as managed in England, was productive of a shameful perjury and flagrant injustice. He observed, that traffic was an enemy to all the liberal passions of the soul, founded on the thirst of lucre, a sordid disposition to take advantage of the necessities of our fellow creatures.—He affirmed the nature of commerce was such, that it could not be fixed or perpetuated, but having flowed to a certain height, would immediately begin to ebb, and so continue till the channels should be left almost dry; but there was no instance of the tide's rising the second time to any considerable influx in the same nation. Mean while the sudden affluence occasioned by trade, forced open all the sluices of luxury, and overflowed the land with every species of profligacy and corruption, a total depravity of manners would ensue, and this must be attended with bankruptcy and ruin. He observed of the parliament, that the practice of buying boroughs, and canvassing for votes, was an avowed system of venality, already established upon the ruins of principle, integrity, faith, and good order, in consequence of which the elected, and the elector, and, in short, the whole body of the people, were equally and universally contaminated and corrupted. He affirmed, that, of a parliament thus constituted, the crown would always have influence enough to secure a great majority in its dependence, from the great number of posts, places, and pensions it had to bestow; that such a parliament would (as it had already done) lengthen the term of its sitting and authority, whenever the prince should think

think it for his interest to continue the representatives; for, without doubt, they had the same rights to protract their authority *ad infinitum*, as they had to extend it from three to seven years.—With a parliament, therefore, dependent upon the crown, devoted to the prince, and supported by a standing army, garbled and modelled for the purpose, any king of England may, and probably some ambitious sovereign will totally overthrow all the bulwarks of the constitution; for it is not to be supposed that a prince of a high spirit will tamely submit to be thwarted in all his measures, abused and insulted by a populace of unbridled ferocity, when he has it in his power to crush all opposition under his feet with the concurrence of the legislature. He said, he would always consider the liberty of the press as a natural evil, while it enabled the vilest reptile to soil the lustre of the most shining merit, and furnished the most infamous incendiary with the means of disturbing the peace, and destroying the good order of the community. He owned, however, that under due restrictions, it would be a valuable privilege; but affirmed, that at present there was no law in England sufficient to restrain it within proper bounds.

With respect to juries, he expressed himself to this effect:——Juries are generally composed of illiterate plebians, apt to be mistaken, easily misled, and open to sinister influence; for if either of the parties to be tried, can gain over one of the twelve jurors, he has secured the verdict in his favour; the jurymen thus brought over, will, in despite of all evidence and conviction, generally hold out till his fellows are fatigued, and harassed, and starved into concurrence, in which case the verdict is unjust, and the jurors are all perjured: but cases will often occur, when the jurors are really divided in opinion, and each side is convinced in opposition to the

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the other; but no verdict will be received, unless they are unanimous, and they are all bound, not only in conscience, but by oath, to judge and declare according to their conviction.——What then will be the consequence?——They must either starve in company, or one side must sacrifice their conscience to their convenience, and join in a verdict which they believe to be false. This absurdity is avoided in Sweden, where a bare majority is sufficient; and Scotland, where two thirds of the jury are required to concur in the verdict.

You must not imagine that all these deductions were made on his part, without contradiction on mine.——No—the truth is, I found myself piqued in point of honour, at his pretending to be so much wiser than his neighbours——I questioned all his assertions, started innumerable objections, argued and wrangled with uncommon perseverance, and grew very warm, and even violent in the debate.——Sometimes he was puzzled, and once or twice, I think, fairly refuted; but from those falls he rose again, like Antæus, with redoubled vigour, till at length I was tried, exhausted, and really did not know how to proceed, when luckily he dropped a hint, by which he discovered he had been bred to the law; a confession which enabled me to retire from the dispute with a good grace, as it could not be supposed that a man like me, who had been bred to nothing, should be able to cope with a veteran in his own profession. I believe; however, that I shall for some time continue to chew the cud of reflection upon many observations which this original discharged.

Whether our sister Tabby was really struck with his conversation, or is resolved to throw at every thing she meets in the shape of a man, till she can fasten the matrimonial noose, certain it is, she has taken desperate strides towards the affection of Lismahago,

mahago, who cannot be said to have met her half way, though he does not seem altogether insensible to her civilities——She insinuated more than once, how happy we should be to have his company thro' that part of Scotland which we proposed to visit, till at length he plainly told us, that his road was totally different from that which we intended to take; that, for his part, his company would be of very little service to us in our progress, as he was utterly unacquainted with the country, which he had left in his early youth, consequently, he could neither direct us in our inquiries, nor introduce us to any family of distinction. He said, he was stimulated by an irresistible impulse to revisit the *paternus lar*, or *patria domus*, though he expected little satisfaction, inasmuch as he understood that his nephew, the present possessor, was but ill qualified to support the honour of the family.——He assured us, however, as we design to return by the west road, that he will watch our motions, and endeavour to pay his respects to us at Dumfries.——Accordingly he took his leave of us at a place half way betwixt Morpeth and Alnwick, and pranced away in great state, mounted on a tall, meagre, raw-boned, shambling gray gelding, with out e'er a tooth in his head, the very counter part of the rider; and, indeed, the appearance of the two was so picturesque, that I would give twenty guineas to have them tolerably represented on canvass.

Northumberland is a fine country, extending to the Tweed, which is a pleasant pastoral stream but you will be surprised when I tell you that the English side of that river is neither so well cultivated nor so populous as the other.——The farms are thinly scattered, the lands uninclosed, and scarce a gentleman's seat is to be seen in some miles from the Tweed; whereas the Scots are advanced in crowds

crowds to the very brink of the river; so that you may reckon above thirty good houses, in the compass of a few miles, belonging to proprietors whose ancestors had fortified castles in the same situations, a circumstance that shews what dangerous neighbours the Scots must have been formerly to the northern counties of England.

Our domestic œconomy continues on the old footing.—My sister Tabby still adheres to Methodism, and had the benefit of a sermon at Westley's meeting in Newcastle; but I believe the passion of love has in some measure abated the fervour of devotion both in her, and in her woman Mrs Jenkins, about whose good graces there has been a violent contest betwixt my nephew's valet, Mr Dutton, and my man, Humphy Clinker.—Jery has been obliged to interpose his authority to keep the peace; and to him, I have left the discussion of that important affair, which had like to have kindled the flames of discord in the family of

Yours always,

Tweedmouth, }
July 15. }

MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. at Oxon.

DEAR WATT,

IN my two last you had so much of Lismahago, that I suppose you are glad he is gone off the stage for the present.——I must now descend to domestic occurrences.——Love, it seems, is resolved to assert his dominion over all the females of our family.——After having practised upon poor Liddy's heart, and played strange vigaries with our aunt

Mrs

Mrs Tabitha, he began to run riot in the affections of her woman, Mrs Winifred Jenkins, whom I have had occasion to mention more than once in the course of our memoirs. Nature intended Jenkins for something very different from the character of her mistress; yet custom and habit hath affected a wonderful resemblance betwixt them in many particulars. Win, to be sure, is much younger and more agreeable in her person; she is likewise tender-hearted and benevolent, qualities for which her mistress is by no means remarkable, no more than she is for being of a timorous disposition, and much subject to fits of the mother, which are the infirmities of Win's constitution; but then she seems to have adopted Mrs Tabby's manner with her cast-clothes.——She dresses and endeavours to look like her mistress, although her own looks are much more engaging.——She enters into her scheme of œconomy, learns her phrases, repeats her remarks, imitates her stile in scolding the inferior servants, and finally, subscribes implicitly to her system of devotion.——This, indeed, she found the more agreeable, as it was in a great measure introduced and confirmed by the ministry of Clinker, with whose personal merit she seems to have been struck ever since he exhibited the pattern of his naked skin at Marlborough.

Nevertheless, though Humphry had this double hand upon her inclinations, and had exerted all his power to maintain the conquest he had made, he found it impossible to guard in on the side of vanity. where poor Win was as frail as any female in the kingdom. In short, my rascal, Dutton, professed himself her admirer, and, by dint of his outlandish qualifications, threw his rival Clinker out of the saddle of her heart. Humphry may be compared to an English pudding, composed of good wholesome flour and suet, and Dutton to a syllabub or iced froth, which, though agreeable to the taste, has nothing solid or substantial, The traitor not
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only dazzled her with his second hand finery, but he fawned, and flattered, and cringed——He taught her to take rappee, and presented her with a snuff-box of *papier mache*——he supplied her with a powder for her teeth—he mended her complexion, and he dressed her hair in the Paris fashion——he undertook to be her French-master and her dancing-master, as well as friseur, and thus imperceptibly wound himself into her good graces. Clinker perceived the progress he had made, and repined in secret.——He attempted to open her eyes in the way of exhortation, and finding it produced no effect, had now recourse to prayer. At Newcastle, while he attended Mrs Tabby to the Methodist meeting, his rival accompanied Mrs Jenkins to the play. He was dressed in a silk coat, made at Paris for his former master, with a tawdry waistcoat of tarnished brocade; he wore his hair in a great bag with a huge solitaire, and a long sword dangled from his thigh. The lady was all of a flutter with faded lutestring, washed gauze, and ribbon three times refreshed, but she was most remarkable for the friseur of her head, which rose, like a pyramid, seven inches above the scalp, and her face was primed and patched from the chin up to the eyes; nay, the gallant himself had spared neither red nor white in improving the nature of his own complexion. In this attire, they walked together through the high-street to the theatre, and as they passed for players, ready dressed for acting, they reached it unmolested; but as it was still light when they returned, and by that time the people had got information of their real character and condition, they hissed and hooted all the way, and Mrs Jenkins was all bespattered with dirt, as well as assailed with the opprobrious name of *peinted Jexabel*, so that her fright and mortification threw her into an hysterical fit the moment she came home.

Clinker

Clinker was so incensed at Dutton, whom, he considered as the cause of her disgrace, that he upbraided him severely for having turned the poor young woman's brain. The other affected to treat him with contempt; and mistaking his forbearance for want of courage, threatened to horse-whip him into good manners. Humphry then came to me, humbly begging, I would give him leave to chastise my servant for his insolence—"He has challenged me to fight him at sword's point (said he); but I might as well challenge him to make a horse shoe, or a plough iron; for I know no more of the one than he does of the other.——— Besides, it does not become servants to use those weapons, or to claim the privilege of gentlemen to kill one another when they fall out; moreover, I would not have his blood upon my conscience for ten thousand times the profit or satisfaction I should get by his death; but if your honour won't be angry, I'll engage to gee 'em a good drubbing, that, mayhap, will do 'em service, and I'll take care it shall do 'em no harm." I said, I had no objection to what he proposed, provided he could manage matters so as not to be found the aggressor, in case Dutton should prosecute him for an assault and battery

Thus licensed, he retired; and the same evening easily provoked his rival to strike the first blow, which Clinker returned with such interest, that he was obliged to call for quarter, declaring, at the same time, that he would exact severe and bloody satisfaction the moment we should pass the border, when he could run him through the body without fear of the consequence.——— This scene passed in presence of Lieutenant Lismahago, who encouraged Clinker to hazard a thrust of cold iron with his antagonist. "Cold iron (cried Humphry) I shall never use against the life of any human crea-

"ture; but I am so far from being afraid of his cold iron, that I shall use nothing in my defence, but a good cudgel, which shall always be at his service." In the mean time, the fair cause of this contest, Mrs Winifred Jenkins, seemed overwhelmed with affliction, and Mr Clinker acted much on the reserve, though he did not presume to find fault with her conduct.

The dispute between the two rivals was soon brought to a very unexpected issue. Among the fellow lodgers at Berwick, was a couple from London, bound to Edinburgh, on the voyage of matrimony. The female was the daughter and heiress of a pawn broker deceased, who had given her guardian the slip, and put herself under the tuition of a tall Hibernian, who had conducted her thus far in quest of a clergyman to unite them in marriage, without the formalities required by the law of England. I knew not how the lover had behaved on the road, so as to decline in favour of his inamorata; but, in all probability, Dutton perceived a coldness on her side, which encouraged him to whisper, it was a pity she should have cast her affections upon a taylor, which he affirmed the Irishman to be. This discovery completed her disgust, of which my man taking the advantage, began to recommend himself to her good graces, and the smooth-tongued rascal found no difficulty to insinuate himself into the place of her heart, from which the other had been discarded———Their resolution was immediately taken. In the morning before day, while poor Teague lay snoring a-bed, his indefatigable rival ordered a post-chaise, and set out with the lady for Coldstream, a few miles up the Tweed, where there was a person who dealt in this branch of commerce, and they were noosed, before the Irishman ever dreamt of the matter. But when he got up at six o'clock, and found
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the bird was flown, he made such a noise as alarmed the whole house. One of the first persons he encountered, was the postilion returned from Coldstream, where he had been witness to the marriage, and over and above an handsome gratuity, had received a bride's favour, which he now wore in his cap———When the forsaken lover understood they were actually married, and set out for London, and that Dutton had discovered to the lady, that he (the Hibernian) was a taylor, he had like to have run distracted. He tore the ribband from the fellow's cap, and beat it about his ears. He swore he would pursue him to the gates of hell, and ordered a post chaise and four to be got ready as soon as possible; but recollecting that his finances would not admit of this way of travelling, he was obliged to countermand this order.

For my part, I knew nothing at all of what had happened, till the postilion brought me the keys of my trunk and portmanteau, which he had received from Dutton, who sent me his respects, hoping I would excuse him for his abrupt departure, as it was a step upon which his fortune depended——Before I had time to make my uncle acquainted with this event, the Irishman burst into my chamber, without any introduction, exclaiming,——“By my soul, your
“servant has robbed me of five thousand pounds, and
“I'll have satisfaction, if I should be hanged to-mor-
“row.——” When I asked him who he was, “My
“name (said he) is Master Macloughlin——but it
“should be Leighlin O'neale, for I am come from
“Ter-Owen the Great; and so am as good a gentle-
“man as any in Ireland; and that rogue, your ser-
“vant, said I was a taylor, which was as big a lie
“as if he had called me the pope———I'm a
“man of fortune, and have spent all I had; and
“so being in distress, Mr Cosgrave, the fa-
E 2 “shione,

“oner in Shuffolk-street, tuck me out, and mad
 “me his own private shecretary; by the same to-
 “ken, I was the last he bailed; for his friend
 “obliged him to tie himself up, that he would
 “bail no more above ten pounds; for why, be-
 “cause as how, he could not refuse any body that
 “asked, and, therefore, in time would have robbed
 “himself of his whole fortune, and if he had lived
 “long at that rate, must have died bankrupt very
 “soon———and so I made my addressee to Miss
 “Skinner, a young lady of five thousand pounds
 “fortune, who agreed to to take me for better nor
 “worfe; and, to be sure, this day would have
 “put me in possession, if it had not been for that
 “rogue, your sarvant, who came like a tief, and
 “stole away my property, and made her believe
 “I was a taylor, and that she was going to marry
 “the ninth part of a man: but the devil burn my
 “soul, if ever I catch him on the mountains of
 “Fullochobegly, if I don’t shew him that I’m nine
 “times as good a man as he, or e’er a bug of his
 “country.”

When he had rung out his first alarm, I told him
 I was sorry he had allowed himself to be so jockied;
 but it was no business of mine; and that the fellow
 who robbed him of his bride, had likewise robbed
 me of my servant——“Didn’t I tell you then, (cried
 “he) that Rogue was his true Christian name.——
 “Oh! if I had but one fair trust with him upon the
 “fod, I’d give him leave to brag all the rest of his
 “life”

My uncle hearing the noise, came in, and being
 to be informed of this adventure, began to comfort
 Mr Oneale for the lady’s elopement; observing, that
 he seemed to have had a lucky escape, that it was
 better she should elope before, than after marriage

———The Hibernian was of a very different
 opinion. He said, “If he had been once married,
 “she

"she might have eloped as soon as she pleased; he
"would have taken care that she should not have
"carried her fortune along with her—Ah, (said he)
"she's a Judas Iscariot, and has betrayed me with a
"kiss; and, like Judas she carried the bag, and
"has not left me money enough to bear my ex-
"pences back to London; and so as I'm come to
"this pass, and the rogue that was the occasion of
"it has left you without a servant, you may put me
"in his place; and, by Jafus, it is the best thing
"you can do.—" I begged to be excused, declar-
ing I would put up with any inconvenience, rather
than treat as a footman the descendant of Tir-Owen
the Great. I advised him to return to his friend,
Mr Cosgrave, and take his passage from Newcastle by
sea, towards which I made him a small present, and
he retired, seemingly resigned to his evil fortune —
I have taken upon trial, a Scotsman, called Archy
M'Alpin, an old soldier, whose last master, a colo-
nel, lately died at Berwick. The fellow is old and
withered; but he has been recommended to me
for his fidelity, by Mrs Humphreys, a very good
sort of a woman, who keeps the inn at Tweedmouth,
and is much respected by all the travellers on this
road.

Clinker, without doubt, thinks himself happy
in the removal of a dangerous rival, and he is too
good a Christian to repine at Dutton's success.
Even Mrs Jenkins will have reason to congratulate
herself upon this event, when she coolly reflects up-
on the matter; for howsoever she was forced from
her poise for a season, by snares laid for her vanity,
Humphry is certainly the north star to which the
needle of her affection would have pointed at the
long-run. At present the same vanity is exceed-
ingly mortified, upon finding herself abandoned by
her new admirer, in favour of another inamora-
ta. She received the news with a violent burst of

laughter, which soon brought on a fit of crying, and this gave the finishing blow to the patience of her mistress, which had held out beyond all expectation. She now opened all those flood gates of reprehension, which had been shut so long. She not only reproached her with her levity and indiscretion, but attacked her on the score of religion, declaring roundly, that she was in a state of apostacy and reprobation; and, finally, threatened to send her a packing at this extremity of the kingdom. All the family interceded for poor Winifred, not even excepting her slighted swain, Mr Clinker, who, on his knees, implored and obtained her pardon.

There was, however, another consideration that gave Mrs Tabitha some disturbance. At Newcastle, the servants had been informed by some wag, that there was nothing to eat in Scotland, but *oat-meal* and *sheep heads*; and Lieutenant Lismahago, being consulted, what he said served rather to confirm than to refute the report. Our aunt being apprised of this circumstance, very gravely advised her brother to provide a sumpter-horse with store of hams, tongues, bread, biscuit, and other articles for our subsistence, in the course of our peregrination, and Mr Bramble as gravely replied, that he would take the hint into consideration: but, finding no such provision was made, she now revived the proposal, observing that there was a tolerable market at Berwick, where we might be supplied; and that my man's horse would serve as a beast of burthen——The 'quire shrugging up his shoulders, eyed her askance with a look of ineffable contempt; and, after some pause, "Sister, (said he) I can hardly persuade myself you are serious." She was so little acquainted with the geography of that island, that she imagined we could not go to Scotland but by sea; and, after we had passed through the town of Berwick, when we told her

her we were upon Scottish ground, she could hardly believe the assertion—If the truth must be told, the South-Britons are in general woefully ignorant in this particular. What, between want of curiosity, and traditional sarcasms, the effect of ancient animosity, the people at the other end of the island know as little of Scotland as Japan.

If I had never been in Wales, I should have been more struck with the manifest difference in appearance betwixt the peasants and commonalty on the different sides of the Tweed. The boors of Northumberland are lusty fellows, fresh complexioned, cleanly, and well cloathed; but the labourers in Scotland are generally lank, lean, hard featured, fallow, soiled, and shabby, and their little pinched blue caps have a beggarly effect. The cattle are much in the same stile with the drivers, meagre, stunted, and ill equipt. When I talked to my uncle on this subject, he said, “Though all the Scottish hinds would not bear to be compared with those of the rich countries of South-Britain, they would stand very well in competition with the peasants of France, Italy, and Savoy—not to mention the mounaineers of Wales, and the red thanks of Ireland.

We entered Scotland by a frightful moor of sixteen miles, which promises very little for the interior parts of the kingdom; but the prospect mended as we advanced. Passing through Dunbar, which is a neat little town, situated on the sea-side, we lay at a country inn, where our entertainment far exceeded our expectation; but for this we cannot give the Scots credit, as the landlord is a native of England. Yesterday we dined at Haddington, which has been a place of some consideration, but is now gone to decay; and in the evening arrived at this metropolis, of which I can say very little. It is very romantic, from its situation on the declivity of a hill, having a fortified castle at the top, and a royal palace at
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the bottom. The first thing that strikes the nose of a stranger, shall be nameless; but what first strikes the eye, is the unconscionable height of the houses, which generally rise to five, six, seven, or eight stories, and, in some places, (as I am assured) to twelve. This manner of building, attended with numberless inconveniences, must have been originally owing to want of room. Certain it is, the town seems to be full of people: but their looks, their language, and their customs, are so different from ours, that I can hardly believe myself in Great-Britain.

The inn at which we put up, (if it may be so called, was so filthy and disagreeable in all respects, that my uncle began to fret, and his gouty symptoms to recur — Recollecting, however, that he had a letter of recommendation to one Mr Mitchelson, a lawyer, he sent it by his servant, with a compliment, importing, that he would wait upon him next day in person; but that gentleman visited us immediately, and insisted upon our going to his own house, until he could provide lodgings for our accomodation. We gladly accepted of his invitation, and repaired to his house, where we were treated with equal elegance and hospitality, to the utter confusion of our aunt, whose prejudices, though beginning to give way, were not entirely removed. To-day, by the assistance of our friend, we are settled in convenient lodgings, up four pair of stairs, in the High-street; the fourth story being, in this city, reckoned more genteel than the first. The air is, in all probability, the better; but it requires good lungs to breathe it at this distance above the surface of the earth. — While I do remain above it, whether higher or lower, provided I breathe at all,

I shall ever be,

Dear Phillips, yours,

MELFORD.

July 18.

To

To Dr LEWIS.

DEAR LEWIS,

THAT part of Scotland contiguous to Berwick, Nature seems to have intended as a barrier between two hostile nations. It is a brown desert of considerable extent, that produces nothing but heath and fern; and what rendered it the more dreary when we passed, there was a thick fog that hindered us from seeing above twenty yards from the carriage.

My sister began to make wry faces, and use her smelling bottle; Liddy looked blank, and Mrs Jenkins dejected; but in a few hours these clouds were dissipated; the sea appeared upon our right, and on the left the mountains retired a little, having an agreeable plain betwixt them and the beach; but, what surprised us all, this plain, to the extent of several miles, was covered with as fine wheat as ever I saw in the most fertile parts of South-Britain. This plentiful crop is raised in the open field, without any inclosure, or other manure than the *alga marina*, or sea-weed, which abounds on this coast; a circumstance which shows that the soil and climate are favourable; but that agriculture in this country is not yet brought to that perfection which it has attained in England. Inclosures would not only keep the ground warm, and the several fields distinct, but would also protect the crop from the high winds, which are so frequent in this part of the island.

Dunbar is well situated for trade, and has a curious basin, where ships of small burthen may be perfectly secure; but there is little appearance of business in the place. From thence, all the way to Edinburgh, there is a continual succession of
fine

fine seats belonging to noblemen and gentlemen; and is each surrounded by its own parks and plantation, they produce a very pleasing effect in a country which lies otherwise open and exposed.—

At Dunbar there is a noble park, with a lodge, belonging to the Duke of Roxburgh, where Oliver Cromwell had his head quarters, when Lesley, at the head of a Scots army, took possession of the mountains in the neighbourhood, and hampered him in such a manner, that he would have been obliged to embark and get away by sea, had not the fanaticism of the enemy forfeited the advantage which they had obtained by their General's conduct.— Their ministers, by exhortation, prayer, assurance, and prophecy, instigated them to go down and slay the Philistines in Gilgal, and they quitted their ground accordingly, notwithstanding all that Lesley could do to restrain the madness of their enthusiast.—

When Oliver saw them in motion, he exclaimed, "Praised be the Lord, he hath delivered them into the hands of his servant!" and ordered his troops to sing a psalm of thanksgiving, while they advanced in order to the plain, where the Scots were routed with great slaughter.

In the neighbourhood of Haddington, there is a gentleman's house, in the building of which, and the improvements about it, he is said to have expended forty thousand pounds: but I cannot say I was much pleased with either the architecture or the situation; though it has in front a pastoral stream, the banks of which are laid out in a very agreeable manner.— I intended to pay my respects to Lord Elibank, whom I had the honour to know at London many years ago. He lives in this part of Lothian; but was gone to the North on a visit.— You have often heard me mention this nobleman, whom I have long revered for his humanity and universal intelligence over and above the entertainment arising

rising from the originality of his character.——At Musselburgh, however, I had the good fortune to drink tea with my old friend Mr Cardonel; and at his house I met with Dr C——, the parson of the parish, whose humour and conversation inflamed me with a desire of being better acquainted with his person——I am not at all surpris'd that these Scots make their way in every quarter of the globe.

This place is about four miles from Edinburgh, towards which we proceed along the sea-shore, upon a firm bottom of smooth sand, which the tide had left uncovered in its retreat—Edinburgh, from this avenue, is not seen to much advantage—We had only an imperfect view of the Castle and upper parts of the town, which varied incessantly according to the inflections of the road, and exhibited the appearance of detached spires and turrets, belonging to some magnificent edifice in ruins. The palace of Holyrood house stands on the left as you enter the Canongate——

This is a street continued from hence to the gate called Nether-Bow, which is now taken away; so that there is no interruption for a long mile, from the bottom to the top of the hill on which the castle stands in a most imperial situation——Considering its fine pavement, its width, and the lofty houses on each side, this would be undoubtedly one of the noblest streets in Europe, if an ugly mass of mean buildings called the Lucken-Booths, had not thrust itself, by what accident I know not, into the middle of the way, like Middle Row in Holborn. The city stands upon two hills, and the bottom between them; and, with all his defects, may very well pass for the capital of a moderate kingdom——It is full of people, and continually resounds with the noise of coaches and other carriages, for luxury as well as commerce. As far as I can perceive, here
is

is no want of provisions——The beef and mutton are as delicate here as in Wales; the sea affords plenty of good fish; the bread is remarkable fine; and the water is excellent, though I'm afraid not in sufficient quantity to answer all the purposes of cleanliness and convenience; articles in which, it must be allowed, our fellow-subjects, are a little defective——The water is brought in leaden pipes from a mountain in the neighbourhood, to a cistern on the Castle-hill, from whence it is distributed to public conduits in different parts of the city——From these it is carried in barrels, on the backs of male and female porters, up two, three, four, five, six, seven, and eight pair of stairs, for the use of particular families——Every story is a complete house, occupied by a separate family; and the stair being common to them all, is generally left in a very filthy condition; a man must tread with great circumspection to get safe housed with unpolluted shoes——Nothing can form a stronger contrast, than the difference betwixt the outside and inside of the door; for the good women of this metropolis are remarkably nice in the ornaments and propriety of their apartments, as if they were resolved to transfer the imputation from the individual to public.—You are no stranger to their method of discharging all their impurities from their windows, at a certain hour of the night, as the custom is in Spain, Portugal, and some parts of France and Italy——A practice to which I can by no means be reconciled; for notwithstanding all the care that is taken by their scavengers to remove this nuisance every morning by break of day, enough still remains to offend the eyes, as well as other organs of those whom use has not hardened against all delicacy of sensation.

The inhabitants seem insensible to these impressions, and are apt to imagine the disgust that we avow is little better than affectation; but they ought to have

have some compassion for strangers, who have not been used to this kind of sufferance; and consider, whether it may not be worth while to take some pains to vindicate themselves from the reproach that, on this account, they bear among their neighbours. As to the surprising height of their houses it is absurd in many respects; but in one particular light I cannot view it without horror, that is, the dreadful situation of all the families above, in case the common stair case should be rendered impassible by fire in the lower stories.—In order to prevent the shocking consequences that must attend such an accident, it would be a right measure to open doors of communication from one house to another, on every story, by which the people might fly from such a terrible visitation. In all parts of the world we see the force of habit prevailing over all the dictates of convenience and sagacity.—All the people of business at Edinburgh, and even the genteel company, may be seen standing in crowds every day from one to two in the afternoon, in the open street, at a place where formerly stood a market-cross, which (by the bye) was a curious piece of Gothic architecture, still to be seen in Lord Somerville's garden in this neighbourhood.—I say, the people stand in the open street from the force of custom, rather than move a few yards to an Exchange, that stands empty on one side, or to the Parliament close on the other, which is a noble square, adorned with a fine equestrian statue of king Charles II.—The company thus assembled, are entertained with a variety of tunes, played upon a set of bells, fixed in a steeple hard by.—As these bells are well toned, and the musician, who has a salary from the city, for playing upon them with keys, is no bad performer, the entertainment is really agreeable, and very striking to the ears of a stranger.

The public inns of Edinburgh are still worse than those of London; but by means of a worthy gentleman, to whom I was recommended, we have got decent lodgings in the house of a widow gentlewoman of the name of Lockhart: and here I shall stay until I have seen every thing that is remarkable in and about this capital. I now begin to feel the good effects of exercise—I eat like a farmer, sleep from midnight till eight in the morning without interruption, and enjoy a constant tide of spirits, equally distant from inanition and excess; but whatever ebbs or flows my constitution may undergo, my heart will declare that I am,

Dear Lewis,

Yours affectionate friend, and servant,

Edi. July 18.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Mrs MARY JONES, at Brambleton-hall.

DEAR MARY,

THE 'squire has been so kind as to rap my bit of nonsense under the kiver of his own sheet—O Mary Jones! Mary Jones! I have had trials and trembulation. God help me! I have been a vixen and a griffin these many days——Sattin has had power to tempt me in the shape of van Ditton, the young 'squire's wally de shamble; but by God's grease he did not purvail—I thoft as how, there was no arm in going to a play at Newcastle, with my hair dressed in the Paris fashion; and as for the trifle of paint, he said as how my complexion wanted rouch, and so I let him put it on with a little Spanish owl; but a mischiveous mob of colliers, and such promiscuous ribble rabble, that could bare no smut but their own, attacked us in the street, and called me *boar* and *painted Issabel*, and splashed my
close,

close, and spoiled me a complete set of blond lace triple ruffles, not a pin the worse for the ware.— They cost me seven good fillings, to Lady Grisken's woman at London.

When I axed Mr Clinker what they meant by calling me Issabel, he put the byebill into my hand, and I read of van Issabel a painted harlot, that was thrown out of a vindore, and the dogs came and licked her blood—But I am no harlot; and, with God's blessing, no dog shall have my poor blood to lick: Marry, Heaven forbid, amen! As for Ditton, after all his courting and his compliment, he stole away an Irishman's bride, and took a French leave of me and his master; but I vally not his going a farting; but I have had hanger on his account—Mistress scoulded like mad; thof I have the comfit that all the family took my part, and even Mr Clinker pleaded for me on his bended knee; thof, God he knows, he had raisins enuff to complain; but he's a good sole, abounding with Christian meekness, and one day will meet with his reward.

And now, dear Mary, we have got to Haddingborrough, among the Scots, who are civil enuff for our money, thof I don't speak their lingo—— But they should not go for to impose upon foreigners; for the bills in their houses says, they have different *easements* to let; and behold there is nurro geaks in the whole kingdom, nor any thing for poor servants, but a barrel with a pair of tongs thrown across; and all the chairs in the family are emptied into this here barrel once a day; and at ten o'clock at night the whole cargo is flung out of a back vindore that looks into some street or lane, and the maid calls *gardy loo* to the passengers, which signifies *Lord have mercy upon you!* and this is done every night in every house in Haddingborrough; so you may guess, Mary Jones, what a sweet favour comes

from such a number of profuming pans; they say it is wholesome, and, truly, I believe it is; for being in the vapours, and thinking of Issabel and Mr Clinker, I was going to a fit of astericks, when this fiff, saving your presence, took me by the nose so powerfully that I sneezed three times, and found myself wonderfully refreshed; and this to be sure is the reason why there are no fits in Haddingborough.

I was likewise made believe, that there was nothing to be had but *oat-meal* and *seeps-heads*; but if I hadn't been a fool, I mought have known there could be no *beads* without *karkassés*——This very blessed day I dined upon a delicate leg of Welsh mutton and cully-flower; and as for the oat-meal, I leave that for the servants of the country, which are poor drudges, many of them without shoes or stockings—Mr Clinker tells me here is a great call of the gospel; but I wish some of our family be not fallen off from the rite way—O, if I was given to tail-baring, I have my own secrets to discover——There has been a deal of hugging and flirtation betwixt mistress and an ould Scots officer, called Kismycago. He looks for all the world like the scare-crow that our gardener set up to fright away the sparrows; and what will come of it the Lord knows; but come what will, it shall never be said that I mentioned a syllabub of the matter—Remember me kindly to Saul and the kitten—I hope they got the horn-buck, and will put it to a good use, which is the constant prayer of,

Dear Molly,

Your loving friend,

Addinborough,
July 18.

WIN. JENKINS.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. of Jesus College,
Oxon.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

I stay much longer at Edinburgh, I shall be changed into a downright Caledonian—My uncle observes, that I have already acquired something of the country accent. The people here are so social and attentive in their civilities to strangers, that I am insensibly sucked into the channel of their manners and customs, although they are in fact much more different from ours than you can imagine—That difference, however, which struck me very much at my arrival, I now hardly perceive, and my ear is perfectly reconciled to the Scots accent, which I find even agreeable in the mouth of a pretty woman—It is a sort of Doric dialect, which gives an idea of amiable simplicity—You cannot imagine how we have been caressed and feasted in the *good town of Edinburgh*, of which we are become free denizens and guild brothers, by the special favour of the magistracy.

I had a whimsical commission from Bath, to a citizen of this metropolis—Quin, understanding our intention to visit Edinburgh, pulled out a guinea, and desired the favour I would drink it at a tavern, with a particular friend and bottle companion of his, one Mr R—C—, a lawyer of this city—I charged myself with the commission, and, taking the guinea, “You see (said I) I have pocketed your bounty.” “Yes, (replied Quin, laughing); and a head-ake into the bargain, if you drink fair.” I made use of this introduction to Mr C— who received me with open arms, and gave me the rendezvous, according to the cartel. He had provided a

company of jolly fellows, among whom I found myself extremely happy, and did Mr C——— and Quin all the justice in my power; but, alas! I was no more than a tyro among a troop of veterans, who had compassion upon my youth, and conveyed me home in the morning, by what means I know not———Quin was mistaken, however, as to the head-ake; the claret was too good to treat me so roughly.

While Mr Bramble holds conferences with the graver literati of the place, and our females are entertained at visits by the Scots ladies, who are the best and kindest creatures upon earth, I pass my time among the bucks of Edinburgh; who, with a great share of spirit and vivacity, have certain shrewdness and self command that is not often found among their neighbours, in the high day of youth and exultation.—Not a hint escapes a Scotsman that can be interpreted into offence by any individual in the company; and national reflections are never heard. In this particular, I must own, we are both unjust and ungrateful to the Scots; for as far as I am able to judge, they have a real esteem for the natives of South-Britain; and never mention our country, but with expressions of regard——Nevertheless, they are far from being servile imitators of our modes and fashionable vices. All their customs and regulations of public and private œconomy, of business and diversion are their own stile. This remarkably predominates in their looks, their dress, and manner, their music, and even their cookery. Our 'squire declares, that he knows not another people upon earth, so strongly marked with a national character——Now we are upon the article of cookery, I must own, some of their dishes are savoury, and even delicate; but I am not yet Scotsman enough to relish their singed sheep-heads and haggels, which were provided at
our

our request, one day at Mr Mitchelson's, where we dined——The first put me in mind of the history of Congo, in which I had read of negroes heads sold publicly in the markets; the last, being a mess of minced lights, livers, suet, oat-meal, onions, and pepper, inclosed in a sheeps stomach, had a very sudden effect upon mine, and the delicate Mrs Tabby changed colour; when the cause of our disgust was instantaneously removed at the nod of our entertainer. The Scots in general are attached to this composition, with a sort of national fondness, as well as to their oat-meal bread; which is presented at every table in thin triangular cakes, baked upon a plate of iron, called a girdle, and these many of the natives, even in the higher ranks of life, prefer to wheaten-bread, which they have here in perfection——

You know we used to vex poor Murray of Baliol-college, by asking, if there was really no fruit but turnips in Scotland?——Sure enough I have seen turnips make their appearance, not as a desert, but by way of *bors d'œuvres*, or whets, as radishes are served up betwixt more substantial dishes in France and Italy; but it must be observed, that the turnips in this country are as much superior in sweetness, delicacy, and flavour, to those of England, as a musk melon is to the stock of a common cabbage. They are small and conical, of a yellowish colour, with a very thin skin; and over and above their agreeable taste, are valuable for their antiscorbutic quality——As to the fruit now in season, such as cherries, gooseberries, and currants, there is no want of them at Edinburgh; and in the gardens of some gentlemen, who live in this neighbourhood, there is now a very favourable appearance of apricots, peaches, nectarines, and even grapes: nay, I have seen a very fine shew of pine-apples within a few miles of this metropolis. Indeed, we have no
reason

reason to be surpris'd at these particulars, when we consider how little difference there is, in fact, betwixt this climate and that of London.

All the remarkable places in the city and its avenues, for ten miles round, we have visited much to our satisfaction. In the Castle are some royal apartments, where the sovereign occasionally resided; and here are carefully preserved the regalia of the kingdom, consisting of a crown, said to be of great value, a sceptre, and a sword of state, adorned with jewels——Of these symbols of sovereignty, the people are exceedingly jealous——A report being spread, during the sitting of the union-parliament, that they were removed to London, such a tumult arose, that the lord commissioner would have been torn in pieces, if he had not produced them for the satisfaction of the populace.

The palace of Holyrood-house is an elegant piece of architecture, but sunk in an obscure, and as I take it, unwholesome bottom, where one would imagine it had been placed on purpose to be concealed. The apartments are lofty, but unfurnished; and as for the pictures of the Scottish kings, from Fergus I. to king William, they are paltry daubings, mostly by the same hand, painted either from the imagination, or porters hired to sit for the purpose. All the diversions of London we enjoy at Edinburgh, in a small compass. Here is a well conducted concert, in which several gentlemen perform on different instruments——The Scots are all musicians——Every man you meet plays on the flute, the violin, or violencello; and there is one nobleman, whose compositions are universally admired——Our company of actors is very tolerable, and a subscription is now on foot for building a new theatre; but their assemblies please me above all other public exhibitions.

We

We have been at the hunters ball, where I was really astonished to see such a number of fine women——The English who have never crossed the Tweed, imagine erroneously, that the Scots ladies are not remarkable for personal attractions; but, I can declare with a safe conscience, I never saw so many handsome females together, as were assembled on this occasion. At the Leith races, the best company comes hither from the remoter provinces; so that, I suppose, we had all the beauty in the kingdom concentrated as it were into one focus; which was, indeed, so vehement, that my heart could hardly resist its power—Between friends, it has sustained some damage from the bright eyes of the charming Miss R——n, whom I had the honour to dance with at the ball——The countess of Melville attracted all eyes, and the admiration of all present—She was accompanied by the agreeable Miss Grieve, who made many conquests; nor did my sister Liddy pass unnoticed in the assembly—She is become a toast at Edinburgh, by the name of the Fair Cambrian, and has already been the occasion of much wine shed; but the poor girl met with an accident at the ball, which has given us great disturbance.

A young gentleman, the express image of that rascal Wilson, went up to ask her to dance a minuet; and, his sudden appearance shocked her so much, that she fainted away———I call Wilson a rascal, because, if he had been really a gentleman, with honourable intentions, he would have, ere now, appeared in his own character———I must own, my blood boils with indignation when I think of that fellows presumption; and Heaven confound me if I don't———But I won't be so womanish as to rail———Time will, perhaps, furnish occasion———Thank God, the cause of Liddy's disorder remains a secret. The lady directs of the ball, thinking

ing she was overcome by the heat of the place, had her conveyed to another room, where she soon recovered so well, as to return and join in the country-dances, in which the Scots lasses acquit themselves with such spirit and agility, as put their partners to the height of their mettle——— I believe our aunt, Mrs Tabitha, had entertained hopes of being able to do some execution among the cavaliers at this assembly——— She had been several days in consultation with milliners and mantua-makers, preparing for the occasion, at which she made her appearance in a full suit of damask, so thick and heavy, that the sight of it alone, at that season of the year, was sufficient to draw drops of sweat from any man of ordinary imagination——— She danced one minuet with our friend Mr Mitchelson, who favoured her so far, in the spirit of hospitality and politeness; and she was called out a second time by the young laird of Ballymahawple, who, coming in by accident, could not readily find any other partner; but as the first was a married man, and the second paid no particular homage to her charms, which were also over-looked by the rest of the company, she became dissatisfied and censorious——— At supper, she observed that the Scots gentlemen made a very good figure, when they were a little improved by travelling; and, therefore, it was a pity they did not all take the benefit of going abroad——— She said the women were awkward, masculine creatures; that, in dancing, they lifted their legs like so many colts; that they had no idea of graceful motion, and put on their clothes in a frightful manner; but if the truth must be told, Tabby herself was the most ridiculous figure, and the worst dressed of the whole assembly——— The neglect of the male sex rendered her malecontent and peevish; she now found fault with every thing at Edinburgh, and teized her brother to leave the place,

place, when she was suddenly reconciled to it on a religious consideration—There is a set of fanatics, who have separated themselves from the established kirk, under the name of Seceders——They acknowledge no earthly head of the church, reject lay-patronage, and maintain the Methodist doctrines of the new birth, the new light, the efficacy of grace, the insufficiency of works, and the operations of the spirit. Mrs Tabitha, attended by Humphry Clinker, was introduced to one of their conventicles, where they both received much edification; and she has had the good fortune to become acquainted with a pious Christian, called Mr Moffat, who is very powerful in prayer, and often assists her in private exercises of devotion.

I never saw such a concourse of genteel company at any races in England as appeared on the course of Leith.——Hard by, in the fields, called the Links, the citizens of Edinburgh divert themselves at a game called golf, in which they use a curious kind of bats, tipped with horn, and small elastic balls of leather, stuffed with feathers, rather less than tennis balls, but of a much harder consistence——This they strike with such force and dexterity from one hole to another, that they will fly to an incredible distance. Of this diversion the Scots are so fond, that when the weather will permit, you may see a multitude of all ranks, from the senator of justice to the lowest tradesmen, mingled together in their shirts, and following the balls with the utmost eagerness——Among others, I was shewn one particular set of golfers, the youngest of whom was turned of fourscore——They were all gentlemen of independent fortunes, who had amused themselves with this pastime for the best part of a century, without having ever felt the least alarm from sickness or disgust; and they never went to bed, without having each the best part of a gallon of claret in his belly

belly. Such uninterrupted exercise, co-operating with the keen air from the sea, must, without all doubt, keep the appetite always on edge, and steal the constitutions against all the common attacks of distemper.

The Leith races gave occasion to another entertainment of a very singular nature ———— There is at Edinburgh a society or corporation of errand boys, called cawdies, who ply in the streets at night with paper lanthorns, and are very serviceable in carrying messages ———— The fellows, though shabby in their appearance, and rudely familiar in their address, are wonderfully acute, and so noted for fidelity, that there is no instance of a cawdy's having betrayed his trust ———— Such is their intelligence, that they know not only every individual of the place, but also every stranger, by that time he has been four and twenty hours in Edinburgh; and no transaction, even the most private, can escape their notice ———— They are particularly famous for their dexterity in executing one of the functions of Mercury; though for my own part, I never employed them in this department of business ———— Had I occasion for any service of this nature, my own man Archy M'Alpine, is as well qualified as e'er a cawdie in Edinburgh, and I am much mistaken, if he has not been heretofore of their fraternity. Be that as it may, they resolved to give dinner and a ball at Leith, to which they formally invited all the young noblemen and gentlemen that were at the races; and this invitation was reinforced by an assurance that all the celebrated ladies of pleasure would grace the entertainment with their company ———— I received a card on this occasion, and went thither with half a dozen of my acquaintance. ———— In a large hall, the cloth was laid on a long range of tables joined together, and here the company seated themselves, to the number of about four score lords,

lords, and lairds, and other gentlemen, courtezans and cawdies mingied together, as the slaves and their masters were in the time of the Saturnalia in ancient Rome.——The toast-master, who sat at the upper end, was one cawdie Frazer, a veteran pimp, distinguished for his humour and sagacity, well known and much respected in his profession by all the guests, male and female, that were here assembled——He had bespoke the dinner and the wine: he had taken care that all his brethren should appear in decent apparel and clean linen; and he himself wore a periwig with three tails, in honour of the festival.——I assure you the banquet was both elegant and plentiful, and seasoned with a thousand sallies, and promoted a general spirit of mirth and good humour——After the desert, Mr Frazer proposed the following toasts, which I don't pretend to explain——“The best in Christendom.”——“Gibb's contract.”——“The beggars bennison.”——King and kirk.”——“Great Britain and Ireland.”——Then filling a bumper, and turning to me, “Mester Malford, (said he) may a' unkindness cease betwixt John Bull and his sister Moggy.”——The next person he singled out, was a nobleman who had been long abroad.——“Ma lord, (cried Frazer) here is a bumper to a' those noblemen who have virtue enough to spend their rent in their ain countray.”——He afterwards addressed himself to a member of parliament in these words:——“Mester—I'm sure ye'll ha' nae objection to my drinking disgrace and dule to ilka Scot, that sells his conscience and his vote.”——He discharged a third sarcasm at a person very gaily dressed, who had risen from small beginnings, and made a considerable fortune at play.——Filling his glass, and calling him by name, “Lang life (said he) to the wylie loon that gangs a-field with a toom poke at his lunzie, and come hame with

"a sackful o' filler."——All these toasts being received with loud bursts of applause, Mr Frazer called for pint glasses, and filled his own to the brim: then standing up, and all his brethren following his example, "Ma lords and gentlemen," (cried he) here is a cup of thanks for the great "and undeserved honour you have done your poor "errand boys this day"——So saying, he and they drank off their glasses in a trice, and, quitting their seats took their station each behind one of the other guests; exclaiming, "Noo we'er your honours "cawdies again."

The nobleman who had bore the first brunt of Mr Frazers satire, objected to his abdication. He said, as the company was assembled by invitation from the cawdies, he expected they were to be entertained at their expence. By no means, my "lord, (cried Frazer) I wad na be guilty of sic presumption for the wide world———I never affronted a gentleman since I was born; and sure "at this age, I wonnot offer an indignity to sic "an honourable convention." "Well, (said his "Lordship) as you have expended some wit, you "have a right to save your money. You have "given me good counsel, and I take it in good "part. As you have voluntarily quitted your seat, "I will take your place with the leave of the good "company, and think myself happy to be hailed, *Father of the feast.*" He was forthwith elected into the chair, and complimented in a bumper in his new character.

The claret continued to circulate without interruption, till the glasses seemed to dance upon the table, and, this perhaps, was a hint to the ladies to call for music—At eight in the evening the ball began in another apartment: at midnight we went to supper; but it was broad day before I found the way to my lodging; and, no doubt, his Lordship had a swinging bill to discharge.

In short, I have lived so riotously for some weeks that my uncle begins to be alarmed on the score of my constitution, and very seriously observe, that all his own infirmities are owing to such excesses indulged in his youth —— Mrs Tabitha says it would be more for the advantage of my soul as well as body, if, instead of frequenting these scenes of debauchery, I would accompany Mr Moffat and her to hear a sermon of the reverend Mr M'Corkindale.—Clinker often exhorts me, with a groan, to take care of my precious health; and even Archy M'Alpine, when he happens to be overtaken, (which is oftener the case than I would wish) reads me a long lecture upon temperance and sobriety; and is so very wise and sententious, that, if I could provide him with a professor's chair, I would willingly give up the benefit of his admonitions and service together; for I was tutor-sick at alma mater.

I am not, however, so much engrossed by the gaieties of Edinburgh, but that I find time to make parties in the family way—We have not only seen all the villas and villages within ten miles of the capital, but we have also crossed the Firth, which is an arm of the sea seven miles broad, that divides Lothian from the shire, or, as the Scots call it, the *kingdom of Fife*. There is a large number of open sea-boats that ply on this passage from Lieth to Kinghorn, which is a borough on the other side. In one of these our whole family embarked three days ago, excepting my sister, who being exceeding fearful of the water, was left to the care of Mrs Mitchellson. We had an easy and quick passage into Fife, where we visited a number of poor towns on the sea-side, including St Andrew's, which is the skeleton of a venerable city; but we were much better pleased with some noble and elegant seats and castles, of which there is a great number in that part of Scotland. Yesterday we

took boat again on our return to Lieth, with fair wind and agreeable weather; but we had not advanced half way when the sky was suddenly overcast, and the wind changing, blew directly in our teeth; so that we were obliged to turn, or tack the rest of the way. In a word, the gale increased to a storm of wind and rain, attended with such a fog, that we could not see the town of Lieth, to which we were bound, nor even the castle of Edinburgh, notwithstanding its high situation. It is not to be doubted but that we were all alarmed on this occasion. And at the same time, most of the passengers were seized with a nausea that produced violent retchings. My aunt desired her brother to order the boatmen to put back to Kinghorn, and this expedient he actually proposed; but they assured him there was no danger. Mrs Tabitha finding them obstinate, began to scold, and insisted upon my uncle's exerting his authority as a justice of the peace. Sick and peevish as he was, he could not help laughing at this wise proposal, telling her, that his commission did not extend so far, and if it did, he should let the people take their own way; for he thought it would be great presumption in him to direct them in the exercise of their own profession. Mrs Winifred Jenkins made a general clearance with the assistance of Mr Humphry Clinker, who joined her both in prayer and ejaculation———As he took it for granted that we should not be long in this world, he offered some spiritual consolation to Mrs Tabitha, who rejected it with great disgust, bidding him keep his sermons for those who had leisure to hear such nonsense.———My uncle sat, recollected in himself, without speaking; my man Archy had recourse to a brandy-bottle, with which he made so free that I imagined he had sworn to die of drinking any thing rather than sea-water: but the brandy had

no more effect upon him in the way of intoxication, than if it had been sea-water in good earnest. —As to myself, I was too much engrossed by the sickness at my stomach, to think of any thing else. —Meanwhile the sea swelled mountains high, the boat pitched with such violence, as if it had been going to pieces; the cordage rattled, the wind roared; the lightning flashed, the thunder bellowed, and the rain descended in a deluge. —Every time the vessel was put about, we shipped a sea that drenched us all to the skin. —When, by dint of turning, we thought to have cleared the pier head, we were driven to the leeward, and then the boatmen themselves began to fear that the tide would fail before we should fetch up our lee-way: the next trip, however, brought us into smooth water, and we were safely landed on the quay, about one o'clock in the afternoon. —“To be sure (cried Tabby, “when she found herself on *terra firma*) we must “all have perished, if we had not been the particular care of Providence.” —“Yes, (replied my “uncle) but I am much of the honest Highlander’s “mind—after he had made such a passage as this: “his friend told him he was much indebted to Providence; —“Certainly, (said Donald) but, by “my faul, mon, I se ne’er trouble Providence “again, so long as the brig of Stirling stands.” — You must know the brig, or bridge of Stirling, stands above twenty miles up the river Forth, of which this is the outlet. —I don’t find that our squire has suffered in his health from this adventure, but poor Liddy is in a peaking way. —I’m afraid this unfortunate girl is uneasy in her mind; and this apprehension distracts me, for she is really an amiable creature.

We shall set out to-morrow or next day for Stirling and Glasgow; and we propose to penetrate a little way into the Highlands, before we turn our

course to the southward——In the mean time, commend me to all our friends round Carfax, and believe me to be, ever yours,

Edinburgh, Aug. 8.

J. MELFORD.

To Dr LEWIS.

I SHOULD be very ungrateful, dear Lewis, if I did not find myself disposed to think and speak favourably of this people, among whom I have met with more kindness, hospitality, and rational entertainment in a few weeks, than ever I received in any other country during the whole course of my life—Perhaps the gratitude excited by these benefits may interfere with the impartiality of my remarks; for a man is as apt to be prepossessed by particular favours, as to be prejudiced by private motives of disgust. If I am partial, there is at least, some merit in my conversion from illiberal prejudices which had grown up with my constitution.

The first impressions which an Englishman receives in this country, will not contribute to the removal of his prejudices; because he refers every thing he sees to a comparison with the same articles in his own country; and this comparison is unfavourable to Scotland in all its exteriors, such as the face of the country in respect to cultivation, the appearance of the bulk of the people, and the language of conversation in general.——I am not so far convinced by Mr Linnahago's arguments, but that I think the Scots would do well, for their own sakes, to adopt the English idioms and pronunciation; those of them especially, who are resolved to push their fortunes in South-Britain.——I know, by experience, how easily an Englishman is influenced by the ear and how apt he is to laugh, when he hears his own language

language spoken with a foreign or provincial accent — I have known a member of the house of commons speak with great energy and precision, without being able to engage attention, because his observations were made in the Scots dialect, which (no offence to Lieutenant Lismahago) certainly give a clownish air even to sentiments of the greatest dignity and decorum. — I have declared my opinion on this head to some of the most sensible men of this country, observing at the same time, that if they would employ a few natives of England to teach the pronunciation of our vernacular tongue, in twenty years there would be no difference, in point of dialect between the youth of Edinburgh and of London.

The civil regulations of this kingdom and metropolis are taken from very different models from those of England, except in a few particular establishments, the necessary consequences of the Union. — Their College of Justice is a bench of great dignity, filled with Judges of character and ability. — I have heard some causes tried before this venerable tribunal; and was very much pleased with the pleadings of their advocates, who are by no means deficient either in argument or elocution. The Scottish legislation is founded, in a great measure, on the civil law; consequently, their proceedings vary from those of the English tribunals; but, I think, they have the advantage of us in their method of examining witnesses apart, and in the constitution of their jury; by which they certainly avoid the evil which I mentioned in my last from Lismahago's observation.

The university of Edinburgh is supplied with excellent professors in all the sciences; and the medical school, in particular, is famous over all Europe, — The students of this art have the best opportunity of learning it to perfection, in all its branches,

branches, as there are different courses for the *theory of medicine*, and the *practice of medicine*; for *anatomy*, *chemistry*, *botany*, and the *materia medica*, over and above those of *mathematics* and *experimental philosophy*; and all these are given by men of distinguished talents. What renders this part of education still more complete, is the advantage of attending the Infirmary, which is the best instituted charitable foundation that I ever knew. Now we are talking of charities, here are several hospitals, exceeding well founded, and maintained under admirable regulations; and these are not only useful, but ornamental to the city. Among these, I shall only mention the general work-house, in which all the poor, not otherwise provided for, are employed, according to their different abilities, with such judgment and effect, that they nearly maintain themselves by their labour, and there is not a beggar to be seen within the precincts of this metropolis. It was Glasgow that set the example of this establishment, about thirty years ago. — Even the kirk of Scotland, so long reproached with fanaticism and canting, abounds at present with ministers celebrated for their learning, and respectable for their moderation — I have heard their sermons with equal astonishment and pleasure — The good people of Edinburgh no longer think dirt and cobwebs essential to the house of God. — Some of their churches have admitted such ornaments as would have excited sedition, even in England, a little more than a century ago; and psalmody is here practised and taught by a professor from the cathedral of Durham: — I should not be surprised, in a few years, to hear it accompanied with an organ.

Edinburgh is a hot-bed of genius. — I have had the good fortune to be made acquainted with many authors of the first distinction; such as the two
Humes,

Humes, Robertson, Smith, Wallace, Blair, Ferguson, Wilkie, &c. and I have found them all as agreeable in conversation as they are instructive and entertaining in their writings. These acquaintances I owe to the friendship of Dr Carlyle, who wants nothing but inclination to figure with the rest upon paper. The magistracy of Edinburgh is changed every year by election, and seems to be very well adapted both for state and authority.——The *Lord Provost* is equal in dignity to the *Lord Mayor of London*; and the *four Bailies*, are equivalent to the rank of Aldermen.——There is a *Dean of Guild*, who takes cognizance of mercantile affairs; a Treasurer, a Town clerk; and the council is composed of Deacons, one of whom is returned every year in rotation, as representative of every company of artificers or handicraftmen. Though this city, from the nature of its situation, can never be made either very convenient or very cleanly, it has nevertheless an air of magnificence that commands respect.——The castle is an instance of the sublime in site and architecture.——Its fortifications are kept in good order, and there is always in it a garrison of regular soldiers, which is relieved every year; but it is incapable of sustaining a siege carried on according to the modern operations of war.——The Castle-hill, which extends from the outward gate to the upper end of the high-street, is used as a public walk for the citizens, and commands a prospect, equally extensive and delightful, over the county of Fife, on the other side of the Firth, and all along the sea-coast, which is covered with a succession of towns that would seem to indicate a considerable share of commerce; but, if the truth must be told, these towns have been fallen to decay ever since the Union, by which the Scots were in a great measure deprived of their trade with France.——The palace of Holyrood-house is a jewel in architecture, thrust
into

into a hollow where it cannot be seen; a situation which was not certainly chosen by the ingenious architect, who must have been confined to the site of the old palace, which was a convent. Edinburgh is considerably extended on the south side, where there are divers little elegant squares built in the English manner; and the citizens have planned some improvements on the north, which, when put in execution, will add greatly to the beauty and convenience of this capital.

The sea-port is Leith, a flourishing town, about a mile from this city, in the harbour of which I have seen above one hundred ships lying all together. You must know, I had the curiosity to cross the Firth in a passage-boat, and stayed two days in Fife, which is remarkably fruitful in corn, and exhibits a surprising number of fine seats, elegantly built, and magnificently furnished. There is an incredible number of noble houses in every part of Scotland that I have seen.—Dalkieth, Pinkie, Yester, and Lord Hopton's, all of them within four or five miles from Edinburgh, are princely palaces, in every one of which a sovereign might reside at his ease.—I suppose the Scots affect these monuments of grandeur—if I may be allowed to mingle censure with my remarks upon a people I revere, I must observe, that their weak side seems to be vanity.—I am afraid that even their hospitality is not quite free of ostentation—I think I have discovered among them uncommon pains taken to display their fine linen, of which, indeed, they have great plenty, their furniture, plate, house-keeping, and variety of wines, in which article, it must be owned, they are profuse, if not prodigal.—A burgher of Edinburgh, not content to vie with a citizen of London, who has ten times his fortune, must excel him in the expence as well as elegance of his entertainments.

Though

Though the villas of the Scots nobility and gentry have generally an air of grandeur and state, I think their gardens and parks are not comparable to those of England; a circumstance the more remarkable, as I was told by the ingenious Mr Phillip Miller of Chelsea, that almost all the gardeners of South-Britain were natives of Scotland. The verdure of this country is not equal to that of England———

The pleasure grounds are, in my opinion, not so well laid out according to the *genius loci*: nor are the lawns, and walks, and hedges kept in such delicate order.———The trees are planted in prudish rows, which have not such an agreeable natural effect, as when they are thrown into irregular groupings with intervening glades; and the firs, which they generally raise around their houses, look dull and funereal in the summer season———I must confess, indeed, that they yield serviceable timber, and good shelter against the northern blasts; that they grow and thrive in the most barren soil, and continually perspire a fine balsam of turpentine, which must render the air very salutary and sanative to lungs of a tender texture.

Tabby and I have been both frightened in our return by sea from the coast of Fife.———She was afraid of drowning, and I of catching cold, in consequence of being drenched with sea-water; my fears, as well as hers have been happily disappointed.———She is now in perfect health; I wish I could say the same of Liddy.———Something uncommon is the matter with that poor child; her colour fades, her appetite fails, and her spirits flag.———She is become moping and melancholy, and is often found in tears———Her brother suspects internal uneasiness on account of Wilson, and denounces vengeance against that adventurer.———She was, it seems, strongly affected at the ball by the sudden appearance of one Mr Gordon, who strongly resembles

bles the said Wilton; but I am rather suspicious that she caught cold by being overheated with dancing—I have consulted Dr Gregory, an eminent physician of an amiable character, who advises the Highland air, and the use of goat milk whey, which, surely, cannot have a bad effect upon a patient who was born and bred among the mountains of Wales.—The Doctor's opinion is the more agreeable, as we shall find those remedies in the very place which I proposed as the utmost extent of our expedition—I mean the borders of Argyle.

Mr Smollet, one of the judges of the commissary court, which is now sitting, has very kindly insisted upon our lodging at his country house, on the bank of Lough-Loman, about fourteen miles beyond Glasgow. For this last city we shall set out in two days, and take Stirling in our way, well provided with recommendations from our friends at Edinburgh, whom, I protest, I shall leave with much regret. I am so far from thinking it any hardship to live in this country, that, if I was obliged to lead a town life, Edinburgh would certainly be the head quarters of

Yours always,

Edinburgh, Aug. 8.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. of Jesus College,
Oxon.

DEAR KNIGHT,

I AM now little short of the *Ultima Thule* if this appellation properly belongs to the Orkneys or Hebrides. These last are now lying before me, to the amount of some hundreds, scattered up and down the Deucalidonian sea, affording the most picturesque and romantic prospect I ever beheld——

I write

I write this letter in a gentleman's house, near the town of Inverary, which may be deemed the capital of the West Highlands, famous for nothing so much as the stately castle begun, and actually covered in by the late Duke of Argyle, at a prodigious expence——Whether it will ever be completely finished is a question——

But to take things in order.—We left Edinburgh ten days ago; and the further north we proceed, we find Mrs Tabitha the less manageable, so that her inclinations are not of the nature of the loadstone; they point not towards the pole. What made her leave Edinburgh with reluctance at last, if we may believe her own assertions, was a dispute which she left unfinished with Mr Moffat, touching the eternity of hell torments. That gentleman as he advanced in years, began to be sceptical on this head, till, at length he declared open war against the common acceptance of the word *eternal*. He is now persuaded, that *eternal* signifies no more than an indefinite number of years; and that the most enormous sinner may be quit for *nine millions, nine hundred thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine years of hell-fire*; which term or period, as he very well observes, forms but an inconsiderable drop, as it were in the ocean of eternity.

——For this mitigation, he contends, as a system agreeable to the ideas of goodness and mercy, which we annex to the Supreme Being.—Our aunt seemed willing to adopt this doctrine in favour of the wicked, but he hinted, that no person whatever was so righteous as to be exempted entirely from punishment in a future state; and that the most pious Christian upon earth might think himself very happy to get off for a fast of seven or eight thousand years in the midst of fire and brimstone. Mrs Tabitha revolted at this dogma, which filled her at once with horror and indignation——She had recourse to the opinion of

Humphry Clinker, who roundly declares it was the popish doctrine of purgatory, and quoted scripture in defence of the *fire everlasting prepared for the devil and his angels*.—The reverend Mr Mackcorkendale, and all the theologists and saints of that persuasion were consulted, and some of them had doubts about the matter; which doubts and scruples had begun to infect our aunt, when we took our departure from Edinburgh.

We passed through Linlithgow, where there was an elegant royal palace, which is now gone to decay, as well as the town itself.——This too is pretty much the case with Stirling, though it still boasts of a fine old castle, in which the kings of Scotland were wont to reside in their minority.——But Glasgow is the pride of Scotland, and, indeed, it might very well pass for an elegant and flourishing city in any part of Christendom. There we had the good fortune to be received into the house of Mr Moore, an eminent surgeon to whom we were recommended by one of our friends at Edinburgh; and, truly, he could not have done us more essential service.——Mr Moore is a mery facecious companion, sensible and shrewd, with a considerable fund of humour; and his wife an agreeable woman, well-bred, kind, and obliging.——Kindness, which I take to be the essence of good-nature and humanity, is the distinguishing characteristic of the Scots ladies in their own country.——Our landlord shewed us every thing, and introduced us to all the world at Glasgow; where, through his recommendation, we were complimented with the freedom of the town. Considering the trade and opulence of this place, it cannot but abound with gaiety and diversions.——Here is a great number of young fellows that rival the youth of the capital in spirit and expence; but I was soon convinced, that all the female beauties of Scotland were not assembled at the hunters

hunters ball at Edinburgh——The town of Glasgow flourishes in learning as well as in commerce——Here is an university, with professors in all the different branches of science, liberally endowed, and judiciously chosen——It was vacation time when I passed, so that I could not entirely satisfy my curiosity; but their mode of education is certainly preferable to ours in some respects——The students are not left to the private instructions of tutors; but taught in public schools or classes, each science by its particular professor or regent.

My uncle is in raptures with Glasgow——He not only visited all the manufactures of the place, but made excursions all round, to Hamilton, Paisley, Renfrew, and every other place within a dozen miles, where there was any thing remarkable to be seen in art or nature. I believe the exercise, occasioned by these jaunts was of service to my sister Liddy, whose appetite and spirits begin to revive——Mrs Sabitha displayed her attractions as usual, and actually believed she had entangled one Mr Maclellan, a rich inkle manufacturer, in her snares; but when matters came to an explanation, it appeared that the attachment was altogether spiritual, founded upon an intercourse of devotion, at the meeting of Mr John Wesley; who in the course of his evangelical mission, had come hither in person

——At length, we set out for the banks of Lough-Lomond, passing through the little borough of Dumbarton, or (as my uncle will have it) Dumbritton, where there is a castle more curious than any thing of the kind I had ever seen. It is honoured with a particular description by the elegant Buchanan as an *arx inexpugnabilis*, and, indeed, it must have been impregnable by the ancient manner of besieging. It is a rock of considerable extent, rising with a double top, in an angle formed by the confluence of two rivers, the Clyde and the Leven;

perpendicular and inaccessible on all sides, except in one place where the entrance is fortified; and there is no rising ground in the neighbourhood from whence it could be damaged by any kind of battery. From Dumbarton, the West-Highlands appear in the form of huge, dusky mountains, piled one over another; but this prospect is not at all surprising to a native of Glamorgan—— We have fixed our head-quarters at Cameron, a very neat country-house belonging to commissary Smollett, where we found every sort of accommodation we could desire—— It is situated like a Druid's temple, in a grove of oak, close by the side of Lough-Lomond, which is a surprising body of pure transparent water, unfathomable deep in many places, six or seven miles broad, four and twenty miles in length, displaying above twenty green islands, covered with wood; some of them cultivated for corn, and many of them stocked with red deer—— They belong to different gentlemen, whose seats are scattered along the banks of the lake, which are agreeably romantic beyond all conception. My uncle and I have left the women at Cameron, as Mrs Tabitha would by no means trust herself again upon the water, and to come hither it was necessary to cross a small inlet of the sea, in an open ferry boat—— This country appears more and more wild and savage the further we advance; and the people are as different from the lowland Scots, in their looks, garb, and language, as the mountaineers of Brecknock are from the inhabitants of Herefordshire.

When the Lowlanders went to drink a cheering-cup, they go to the public house called the Change-house, and call for a chopin of two-penny, which is a thin, yeasty beverage, made of malt; not quite so strong as the table beer of England—— This is brought in a pewter stoup, shaped like a skittle, from whence it is emptied into a quaff; that

that is, a curious cup made of different pieces of wood, such as box and ebony, cut into little staves joined alternately, and secured with delicate hoops, having two ears or handles——it holds about a gill, is sometimes tipt round the mouth with silver, and has a plate of the same metal at bottom, with the landlord's cypher engraved——The Highlanders, on the contrary, despise this liquor, and regale themselves with whisky; a malt spirit, as strong as geneva, which they swallow in great quantities, without any signs of inebriation. They are used to it from the cradle, and find it an excellent preservative against the winter cold, which must be extreme on these mountains——I am told that it is given with great success to infants, as a cordial in the confluent small-pox, when the eruption seems to flag, and the symptoms grow unfavourable——The Highlanders are used to eat much more animal food than fall to the share of their neighbours in the low county——They delight in hunting; have plenty of deer and other game, with a great number of sheep, goats, and black cattle running wild, which they scruple not to kill as venison, without being at much pains to ascertain the property.

Inverary is but a poor town, though it stands immediately under the protection of the Duke of Argyle, who is a mighty prince in this part of Scotland. The peasants live in wretched cabins, and seem very poor; but the gentlemen are tolerably well lodged, and so loving to strangers, that a man runs some risque of his life from their hospitality——It must be observed, that the poor Highlanders are now seen to disadvantage——They have not been only disarmed by act of parliament; but also deprived of their ancient garb, which was both graceful and convenient; and what is a greater hardship still, they are compelled to wear breeches; a restraint which they cannot bear with any degree of patience:

patience: indeed, the majority wear them, not in the proper place, but on poles or long staves over their shoulders.—They are debarred even the use of their stripped stuff, called Tartane, which was their own manufacture, prized by them above all the velvets, brocades, and tissues of Europe and Asia. They now lounge along in loose great coats, of coarse, russet, equally mean and cumbersome, and betray manifest marks of dejection.—Certain it is, the government could not have taken a more effectual method to break their national spirit.

We have had princely sport in hunting the stag on these mountains—These are the lonely hills of Morven, where Fingal and his heroes enjoyed the same pastime: I feel an enthusiastic pleasure when I survey the brown heath that Ossian wont to tread; and hear the wind whistle through the bending grass—When I entered our landlord's hall, I looked for the suspended harp of that divine bard, and listened in hopes of hearing the aerial sound of his respected spirit—The poems of Ossian are in every mouth—A famous antiquarian of this country, the laird of Macfarlane, at whose house we dined a few days ago, can repeat them all in the original Gaelick, which has a great affinity to the Welch, not only in the general sound, but also in a great number of radical words: and I made no doubt but that they are both sprung from the same origin. I was not a little surprised, when asking a Highlander one day, if he knew where we should find any game? he replied, "*ku niel Sassenagh*," which signifies *no English*; the very same answer I should have received from a Welchman and almost in the same words. The Highlanders have no other name for the people of the Low country, but Sassenagh, or Saxon; a strong presumption, that the Lowland Scots and the English are derived from the same stock———The peasants of these hills

hills strongly resemble those of Wales in their looks their manners, and habitations; every thing I see, and hear, and feel, seems Welsh—The mountains, vales, and streams; the air and climate; the beef, mutton and game, are all Welsh—It must be owned, however, that the people are better provided than we in some articles—They have plenty of red deer and roebuck, which are fat and delicious at this season of the year——Their sea teems with amazing quantities of the finest fish in the world; and they find means to procure very good claret at a very small expence.

Our landlord is a man of consequence in this part of the country; a cadet from the family of Argyle, and hereditary captain of one of his castles——His name, in plain English, is Dougal Campbell; but as there is a great number of the same appellation, they are distinguished (like the Welsh) by patronimics; and as I have known an ancient Briton called Madoc-ap-Morgan, ap-Jenkin, ap-Jones, our Highland chief, designs himself Dou'l Mac-amish mac-'oul ich-ian, signifying Dougal the son of James, the son of Dougal, the son of John——He has travelled in the course of his education, and is disposed to make certain alterations in his domestic œconomy; but he finds it is impossible to abolish the ancient customs of his family; some of which are ludicrous enough——His piper, for example, who is an hereditary officer of the household, will not part with the least particle of his privileges——He has a right to wear the kilt, or ancient Highland dress, with the purse, pistol, and dark——a broad yellow riband, fixed to the chanter-pipe, is thrown over his shoulder, and trails along the ground, while he performs, the function of his minstrelsy; and this I suppose, is analogous to the pennon or flag, which was formerly carried before every knight in battle——He plays
before

before the laird every Sunday in his way to the kirk, which he circles three times, performing the family march, which implies defiance to all the enemies of the clan; and every morning he plays a full hour by the clock, in the great hall, marching backwards and forwards all the time, with a solemn pace, attended by the laird's kinsmen, who seems much delighted with the music.——In this exercise, he indulges them with a variety of pibrochs or airs, suited to the different passions, which he would either excite or assuage.

Mr. Campbell himself, who performs very well on the violin, has an invincible antipathy to the sound of the Highland bag-pipe, which sings in the nose with a most alarming twang, and, indeed, is quite intolerable to ears of common sensibility, when aggravated by the echo of a vaulted hall——He, therefore, begged the piper would have some mercy upon him, and dispense with this part of the morning service——A consultation of the clan being held on this occasion, it was unanimously agreed, that the laird's request could not be granted without a dangerous encroachment upon the customs of the family——The piper declared, he could not give up for a moment the privilege he derived from his ancestors; nor would the laird's relations forego an entertainment which they valued above all others——There was no remedy; Mr Campbell, being obliged to acquiesce, is fain to stuff his ears with cotton, to fortify his head with three or four night-caps, and every morning retire into the penetralia of his habitation, in order to avoid this diurnal annoyance. When the music ceases, he produces himself at an open window that looks into the court-yard which is by this time filled with a crowd of his vassals and dependents, who worship his first appearance, by uncovering their heads and bowing to the earth.

with

with the most humble prostration. As all these people have something to communicate in the way of proposal, complaint, or petition, they wait patiently till the laird comes forth, and, following him in his walks, are favoured each with a short audience in his turn. Two days ago, he dispatched above an hundred solicitors, in walking with us to the house of a neighbouring gentleman, where we dined by invitation. Our landlord's house-keeping is equally rough and hospitable, and favours much of the simplicity of ancient times: the great hall, paved with flat stones, is above forty-five feet, by twenty-two, and serves not only for a dining-room, but also a bed-chamber to gentlemen-dependents and hangers on of the family. At night, half a dozen occasional beds are ranged on each side along the wall. These are made of fresh heath, pulled up by the roots, and disposed in such a manner as to make a very agreeable couch, where they lie, without any other covering than the plaid—My uncle and I were indulged with separate chambers and down-beds, which we begged to exchange for a layer of heath; and, indeed, I never slept so much to my satisfaction. It was not only soft and elastic, but the plant being in flower, diffused an agreeable fragrance, which is wonderfully refreshing and restorative.

Yesterday we were invited to the funeral of an old lady, the grand-mother of a gentleman in this neighbourhood, and found ourselves in the midst of fifty people who were regaled with a sumptuous feast, accompanied by the music of a dozen pipers. In short, this meeting had all the air of a grand festival; and the guests did such honour to the entertainment, that many of them could not stand when we were reminded of the business on which we had met. The company forthwith taking horse, rode, in a very irregular cavalcade to the

the place of interment, a church at the distance of two long miles from the castle. On our arrival, however, we found we had committed a small oversight in leaving the corpse behind; so that we were obliged to wheel about, and meet the old gentlewoman half-way, carried upon poles by the nearest relations of her family, attended by the *coronach*, composed of a multitude of old hags, who tore their hair, beat their breasts, and howled most hideously. At the grave, the orator, or *senachie*, pronounced the panegyric of the defunct, every period being confirmed by a yell of the *coronach*. The body was committed to the earth, the pipers playing a pibroch all the time; and all the company standing uncovered. The ceremony was closed with the discharge of pistols; then we returned to the castle, resumed the bottle, and by midnight there was not a sober person in the family, the females excepted. The 'squire and I were, with some difficulty, permitted to retire with our landlord in the evening; but our entertainer was a little chagrined at our retreat; and afterwards seemed to think it a disparagement to his family, that not above a hundred gallons of whisky had been drank upon such a solemn occasion. This morning we got up by four, to hunt the roebuck, and in half an hour, found breakfast ready served in the hall. The hunters consisted of Sir George Colquhoun and me, as strangers, (my uncle not chusing to be of the party) of the *laird in person*, *the laird's brother*, *the laird's brother's son*, *the laird's sister's son*, *the laird's father's brother's son*, and all their *foster brothers*, who are counted a parcel of the family: but we were attended by an infinite number of *Gaellys*, or ragged Highlanders, without shoes or stockings.

The following articles formed our morning's repast: one kit of boiled eggs; a second, full of butter; a third, full of cream; an entire cheese, made of goat's milk; a large earthen pot full of honey; the

the best part of a ham; a cold venison pasty; a bushel of oat-meal, made in thin cakes and bannocks, with a small wheaten loaf in the middle for the strangers; a large stone bottle full of whisky, another of brandy, and a kilderkin of ale. There was a ladle chained to the cream kit, with curious wooden bickers, to be filled from this reservoir. The spirits were drank out of a silver quaff, and the ale out of horns: great justice was done to the collation by the guests in general; one of them in particular ate above two dozen of hard eggs, with a proportionable quantity of bread, butter, and honey; nor was one drop of liquor left upon the board. Finally, a large roll of tobacco was presented by way of desert, and every individual took a comfortable quid to prevent the bad effects of the morning air. We had a fine chase over the mountains, after a roe-buck, which we killed, and I got home time enough to drink tea with Mrs Campbell and our 'squire. To-morrow we shall set out on our return for Cameron. We propose to cross the Firth of Clyde, and rake the towns of Greenock and Port-Glasgow in our way. This circuit being finished, we shall turn our faces to the south, and follow the sun with augmented velocity, in order to enjoy the rest of the autumn in England, where Boreas is not quite so biting as he begins already to be on the tops of these northern hills. But our progress from place to place shall continue to be specified in these detached journals of

Yours always,

Argyleshire, Sep. 3.

J. MELFORD.

To

To Dr LEWIS.

DEAR DICK,

A BOUT a fortnight is now elapsed since we left the capital of Scotland, directing our course towards Stirling, where we lay.—The castle of this place is such another as that of Edinburgh, and affords a surprising prospect of the windings of the river Forth, which are so extraordinary, that the distance from hence to Alloa, by land, is but four miles, and by water it is twenty four. Alloa is a neat thriving town, that depends in a great measure on the commerce of Glasgow, the merchants of which send hither tobacco, and other articles, to be deposited in warehouses for exportation from the Frith of Forth. In our way hither we visited a flourishing iron work, where, instead of burning wood, they use coal, which they have the art of clearing in such a manner, as frees it from the sulphur, that would otherwise render the metal too brittle for working. Excellent coal is found in almost every part of Scotland.

The soil of this district produces scarce any other grain but oats and barley; perhaps because it is poorly cultivated, and almost altogether unclosed. The few inclosures they have consist of paltry walls of loose stones gathered from the fields, which indeed they cover, as if they had been scattered on purpose. When I expressed my surprise that the peasants did not disencumber their grounds of these stones; a gentleman, well acquainted with the theory as well as practice of farming, assured me that the stones, far from being prejudicial, were serviceable to the crop. This philosopher had ordered a field of his own to be cleared, manured and sown with barley and the produce was more scanty than before. He caused the stones to be replaced, and next year the crop was as good as ever. The stones were removed a second time

time, and the harvest failed ; they were again brought back, and the ground retrieved its fertility. The same experiment has been tried in different parts of Scotland with the same success ——— Astonished at this information, I desired to know in what manner he accounted for this strange phenomenon ; and he said, there were three ways in which the stones might be serviceable. They might possibly restrain an excess in the perspiration of the earth, analogous to colliquative sweats, by which the human body is sometimes wasted and consumed. They might act as so many fences to protect the tender blade from the piercing winds of the spring ; or, by multiplying the reflection of the sun, they might increase the warmth, so as to mitigate the natural chilness of the soil and climate.—But, surely, this excessive perspiration might be more effectually checked by different kinds of manure, such as ashes, lime, chalk, or marle, of which last it seems there are many pits in this kingdom : as for the warmth, it would be much more equally obtained by inclosures ; one half of the ground which is now covered would be retrieved ; the cultivation would require less labour ; and the ploughs, harrows, and horses would not suffer half the damage which they now sustain.

These north-western parts are by no means fertile in corn. The ground is naturally barren and moorish. The peasants are poorly lodged, meagre in their looks, mean in their apparel, and remarkably dirty. This last reproach they might easily wash off, by means of those lakes, rivers, and rivulets of pure water, with which they are so liberally supplied by nature. Agriculture cannot be expected to flourish where the farms are small, the leases short, and the husbandman begins upon a rack rent, without a sufficient stock to answer the purposes of improvement. The granaries of Scotland are the banks of the Tweed, the counties of East and Mid-Lothian, the Carse of Gowrie in

Perthshire, equal in fertility to any part of England, and some tracts in Aberdeenshire and Murray, where I am told the harvest is more early than in Northumberland, although they lie above two degrees farther north. I have a strong curiosity to visit many places beyond the Forth and the Tay, such as Perth, Dundee, Montrose and Aberdeen, which are towns equally elegant and thriving: but the season is too far advanced, to admit of this addition to my original plan.

I am so far happy as to have seen Glasgow, which to the best of my recollection and judgment, is one of the prettiest towns in Europe; and, without all doubt, it is one of the most flourishing in Great-Britain. In short, it is a perfect bee-hive, in point of industry. It stands partly on a gentle declivity; but the greatest part of it is in a plain, watered by the river Clyde. The streets are straight, open, airy, and well paved; and the houses lofty and well built of hewn stone. At the upper end of the town, there is a venerable cathedral, that may be compared with Yorkminster or Westminster; and, about the middle of the descent from this to the Cross, is the college, a respectable pile of building, with all manner of accommodation for the professors and students, including an elegant library, and observatory well provided with astronomical instruments. The number of inhabitants is said to amount to thirty thousand; and marks of opulence and independency appear in every quarter of this commercial city, which, however, is not without its inconveniences and defects. The water of their public pumps is generally hard and brackish, an imperfection the less excusable, as the river Clyde runs by their doors, in the lower part of the town; and there are rivulets and springs above the cathedral, sufficient to fill a large reservoir with excellent water which might be thence distributed to all the different

different parts of the city. It is of more consequence to consult the health of the inhabitants in this article, than to employ so much attention in beautifying their town with new streets, squares, and churches. Another defect not so easily remedied, is the shallowness of the river, which will not float vessels of any burden within ten, or twelve miles of the city; so that the merchants are obliged to load and unload their ships at Greenock and Port-Glasgow, situate about fourteen miles nearer the mouth of the Frith, where it is about two miles broad.

The people of Glasgow have a noble spirit of enterprise—Mr Moore, a surgeon to whom I was recommended from Edinburgh, introduced me to all the principal merchants of the place. Here I became acquainted with Mr Cochran, who may be stiled one of the sages of this kingdom. He was first magistrate all the time of the last rebellion. I sat as member when he was examined in the house of commons; upon which occasion Mr P——observed he had never heard such a sensible evidence given at that bar. I was also introduced to Dr John Gordon, a patriot of a truly Roman spirit, who is the father of the linen manufacture of this place, and was the great promoter of the city work-house, infirmary, and other works, of public utility. Had he lived in ancient Rome, he would have been honoured with a statue at the public expence. I moreover conversed with Mr G——s—f—d whom I take to be one of the greatest merchants in Europe. In the last war he is said to have had at one time five and twenty ships, with their cargoes, his own property, and to have traded for above half a million sterling a year. The last war was a fortunate period for the commerce of Glasgow—The merchants, considering that their ships bound for America, launching out at once into the Atlantic by the north of Ireland, pursued a tract very little frequented by privateers, resolved to insure one ano-

ther, and saved a very considerable sum by this resolution, as few or none of their ships were taken—— You must know I have a sort of national attachment to this part of Scotland—The great church dedicated to St Mongah, the river Clyde, and other particulars that smack of our Welsh language and customs, contributed to flatter me with the notion, that these people are the descendants of the Britons, who once possessed this country. Without all question this was a Cumbrian kingdom: its capital was Dumbarton (a corruption of Dunbritton) which exists as a royal borough, at the influx of the Clyde and Leven, ten miles below Glasgow. The same neighbourhood gave birth to St Patrick, the apostle of Ireland, at a place where there is still a church and village, which retain his name. Hard by are some vestiges of the famous Roman wall, built in the reign of Antonine, from the Clyde to the Forth, and fortified with castles, to restrain the incursions of the Scots or Caledonians—who inhabited the West-Highlands. In a line parallel this wall, the merchants of Glasgow have determined to make a navigable canal betwixt the two Firths, which will be of incredible advantage to their commerce, in transporting merchandise from one side of the island to the other.

From Glasgow we travelled along the Clyde, which is a delightful stream, adorned on both sides with villas, towns, and villages. Here is no want of groves, and meadows, and corn fields interspersed, but on this side of Glasgow, there is little other grain than oats and barley; the first are much better, the last much worse, than those of the same species in England. I wonder there is so little rye, which is a grain that will thrive in almost any soil; and it is still more surprising, that the cultivation of potatoes should be so much neglected in the Highlands, where the poor people have not meal enough to supply them with bread through
the

the winter. On the other side of the river are the towns of Paisley and Renfrew. The first from an inconsiderable village, is become one of the most flourishing places of the kingdom, enriched by the linen, cambrick, flowered lawn, and silk manufactures. It was formerly noted for a rich monastery of the monks of Clugny, who wrote the famous *Scoti Chronicon* called *The Black Book of Paisley*. The old Abbey still remains converted into a dwelling-house, belonging to the earl of Dundonald. Renfrew is a pretty town, on the banks of Clyde, capital of the shire, which was heretofore the patrimony of the Stuart family, and gave the title of baron to the king's eldest son, which is still assumed by the Prince of Wales.

The Clyde we left a little on our left hand at Dunbritton, where it widens into an æstuary or frith, being augmented by the influx of the Leven. On this spot stands the castle formerly callen Alcluyd, washed by these two rivers on all sides, except a narrow isthmus, which at every spring-tide is overflowed. The whole is a great curiosity, from the quality and form of the rock, as well as from the nature of its situation—We now crossed the water of Leven, which though nothing near so considerable as the Clyde, is much more transparent, pastoral, and delightful. This charming stream is the outlet of Lough-Lomond, and through a tract of four miles pursues its winding course, murmuring over a bed of Pebbles, till it joins the Frith of Dumbriston. A very little above its source, on the lake, stands the house of Cameron, belonging to Mr Smollett, so embosomed in an oak wood, that we did not see it till we were within fifty yards of the door. I have seen the Laga di Garda, Albano, De Vico, Bosfena, and Geneva, and, upon my honour, I prefer Lough-Lomond to them all; a preference which is certainly

tainly owing to the verdant islands that seem to float upon its surface, affording the most enchanting objects of repose to the excursive view. Nor are the banks destitute of beauties, which even partake of the sublime. On this side they display a sweet variety of woodland, corn-field, and pasture, with several agreeable villas emerging as it were out of the lake, till, at some distance the prospect terminates in huge mountains, covered with heath, which being in the bloom, affords a very rich covering of purple. Every thing here is romantic beyond imagination. This country is justly stiled the Arcadia of Scotland; and I don't doubt but it may vie with Arcadia in every thing but climate.—I am sure it excels it in verdure, wood, and water.—What say you to a natural basin of pure water, near thirty miles long, and some places seven miles broad, and in many above a hundred fathoms deep, having four and twenty habitable islands, some of them flocked with deer, and all of them covered with wood; containing immense quantities of delicious fish, salmon, pike, trout, perch, flounders, eels, and powans, the last a delicate kind of fresh water herring peculiar to this lake; and, finally, communicating with the sea, by sending off the Leven, through which all those species except the powan) make their exit and entrance occasionally?

Inclosed I send you the copy of a little ode to this river, by Dr Smollet, who was born on the banks of it, within two miles of the place where I am now writing.—It is at least picturesque and accurately descriptive, if it has no other merit.—There is an idea of truth in an agreeable landscape taken from nature, which pleases me more than the gayest fiction, which the most luxuriant fancy can display.

I have other remarks to make; but as my paper is full, I must reserve them till the next occasion.

tion. I shall only observe at present, that I am determined to penetrate at least forty miles into the Highlands, which now appear like a vast fantastic vision in the clouds, inviting the approach of,

Yours always,

Cameron, Aug. 28.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

ODE to LEVEN-WATER.

On Leven's banks, while free to rove,
And tune the rural pipe to love;
I envied not the happiest swain
That ever trode th' Arcadian plain.

Pure stream! in whose transparent wave,
My youthful limbs I wont to lave;
No torrents stain thy limpid source;
No rocks impede thy dimpling course,
That sweetly warbles o'er its bed,
With white, round, polish'd pebbles spread;
While, lightly pois'd, the scaly brood
In myriads cleave thy crystal flood;
The springing trout in speckled pride;
The salmon, monarch of the tide;
The ruthless pike, intent on war;
The silver eel, and motled par*.

Devolving from thy parent lake,
A charming maze thy waters make,
By bow'rs of birch, and groves of pine,
And hedges flow'r'd with eglantine.

Still on thy banks so gaily green,
May num'rous herds and flocks be seen,
And lassies chanting o'er the pail,
And shepherds piping in the dale.

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* The par is a small fish, not unlike the smelt, which it rivals in delicacy and flavour.

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And ancient faith that knows no guile,
And industry imbrown'd with toil,
And hearts resolv'd, and hands prepar'd,
The blessings they enjoy to guard.

To Dr LEWIS.

DEAR DOCTOR,

IF I was disposed to be critical, I should say this house of Cameron is too near the lake, which approaches, on one side, to within six or seven yards of the window. It might have been placed in a higher site, which would have afforded a more extensive prospect and a drier atmosphere; but this imperfection is not chargeable on the present proprietor, who purchased it ready built, rather than be at the trouble of repairing his own family-house of Bonhill, which stands two miles from hence on the Leven, so surrounded with plantations, that it used to be known by the name of the Mavis (or thrush) Nest. Above that house is a romantic glen or clift of a mountain, covered with hanging wood, having at bottom a stream of fine water that forms a number of cascades in its descent to join the Leven; so that the scene is quite enchanting. A captain of a man of war, who had made the circuit of the globe with Mr Anson, being conducted to this glen, exclaimed, "Juan Fernandez, by God!"

Indeed, this country would be a perfect paradise, if it was not, like Wales, cursed with a weeping climate, owing to the same causes in both, the neighbourhood of high mountains, and a westerly situation, exposed to the vapours of the Atlantic ocean. This air, however, notwithstanding

standing its humidity, is so healthy, that the natives are scarce ever visited by any other disease than the small-pox and certain cutaneous evils which are the effects of dirty living, the great and general reproach of the commonalty of this kingdom. Here are a great many living monuments of longævity, and among the rest a person, whom I treat with singular respect, as a venerable druid, who has lived near ninety years, without pain or sickness, among oaks of his own planting———He was once proprietor of these lands, but being of a projecting spirit, some of his schemes miscarried, and he was obliged to part with his possession, which hath shifted hands two or three times since that period; but every succeeding proprietor hath done every thing in his power, to make his old age easy and comfortable. He has a sufficiency to procure the necessaries of life; and he and his old woman reside in a small convenient farm-house, having a little garden which he cultivates with his own hands. This ancient couple live in great health, peace, and harmony, and knowing no wants, enjoy the perfection of content. Mr Smollet calls him the admiral, because he insists upon steering his pleasure-boat upon the lake; and he spends most of his time in ranging through the woods, which he declares he enjoys as much as if they were still his own property———I asked him the other day, if he never was sick, and he answered, Yes; he had a slight fever the year before the Union. If he was not deaf, I should take much pleasure in his conversation; for he is very intelligent, and his memory is surprisingly retentive———These are the happy effects of temperance, exercise, and good nature———Notwithstanding all his innocence, however, he was the cause of great perturbation to my man, Clinker, whose natural superstition has been much injured, by the histories

ries

ries of witches, fairies, ghosts, and goblins, which he has heard in this country.—On the evening after our arrival Humphry strolled into the wood, in the course of his meditation, and all at once the admiral stood before him, under the shadow of a spreading oak. Though the fellow is far from being timorous in cases that are not supposed preternatural he could not stand the sight of this apparition, but ran into the kitchen, with his hair standing on end, staring wildly, and deprived of utterance. Mrs Jenkins, seeing him in this condition screamed aloud, “Lord have mercy upon us, he has seen something!” Mrs Tabatha was alarmed, and the whole house in confusion. When he was recruited with a dram, I desired him to explain the meaning of all this agitation; and with some reluctance, he owned he had seen a spirit, in the shape of an old man with a white beard, a black cap, and a plaid night-gown. He was undeceived by the admiral in person, who coming in at this juncture, appeared to be a creature of real flesh and blood,

Do you know how we fare in this Scottish paradise? We make free with our landlord’s mutton, which is excellent, his poultry-yard, his garden, his dairy, and his cellar, which are all well stored. We have delicious salmon, pike, trout, perch, par, &c. at the door, for the taking. The Frith of Clyde, on the other side of the hill, supplies us with mullet, red and grey cod, mackarel, whiting, and a variety of sea-fish, including the finest fresh herring I ever tasted. We have fine juicy beef, and tolerable veal, with delicate bread from the little town of Dunbritton; and plenty of partridge, growse, heath-cock, and other game in presents.

We have been visited by all the gentlemen in the neighbourhood, and they have entertained us at
their

their houses, not barely with hospitality, but with such marks of cordial affection, as one would wish to find among near relations; after an absence of many years.

I told you, in my last, I had projected an excursion to the Highlands, which project I have now happily executed, under the auspices of Sir George Colquhoun, a colonel in the Dutch service, who offered himself as our conductor on this occasion. Leaving our women at Cameron, to the care and inspection of Lady H——C——, we set out on horseback for Inverary, the country-town of Argyle, and dined on the road with the laird of Macfarlane, the greatest genealogist I ever knew in any country, and perfectly acquainted with all the antiquities of Scotland,

The duke of Argyle has an old castle at Inverary, where he resides when he is in Scotland; and hard by is the shell of a noble Gothic-palace, built by the last duke, which, when finished, will be a great ornament to this part of the Highlands. As for Inverary, it is a place of very little importance.

This country is amazingly wild, especially towards the mountains, which are heaped upon the backs of one another, making a most stupendous appearance of savage nature, with hardly any signs of cultivation, or even of population. All is sublimity, silence, and solitude. The people live together in glens or bottoms, where they are sheltered from the cold and storms of winter: but there is a margin of plain ground spreading along the sea-side, which is well inhabited and improved by the arts of husbandry; and this I take to be one of the most agreeable tracts of the whole island; the sea not only keeps it warm, and supplies it with fish, but affords one of the most ravishing prospects in the whole world; I mean the appearance of the Hebrides, or western islands, to the number

ber of three hundred, scattered as far as the eye can reach in the most agreeable confusion. As the soil and climate of the Highlands are but ill adapted to the cultivation of corn, the people apply themselves chiefly to the breeding and feeding of black cattle, which turn to good account. Those animals run wild all the winter, without any shelter or subsistence, but what they can find among the heath. When the snows lie so deep and hard, that they cannot penetrate to the roots of the grass, they make a diurnal progress, guided by a sure instinct, to the sea-side at low water, where they feed on the *alga marina*, and other plants that grow upon the beach.

Perhaps this branch of husbandry, which requires very little attendance and labour, is one of the principal causes of that idleness and want of industry, which distinguishes these mountaineers in their own country——— When they come forth into the world, they become as diligent and alert as any people upon earth. They are undoubtedly a very distinct species from their fellow subjects of the Lowlands, against whom they indulge an ancient spirit of animosity; and this difference is very discernable even among persons of family and education. The Lowlanders are generally cool and circumspect, the Highlanders fiery and ferocious; but this violence of their passions serves only to inflame the zeal of their devotion to strangers, which is truly enthusiastic.

We proceeded about twenty miles beyond Inverary, to the house of a gentleman, a friend of our conductor, where we stayed a few days, and were feasted in such a manner, that I began to dread the consequence of my constitution.

Notwithstanding the solitude that prevails among these mountains, there is no want of people in the Highlands. I am credibly informed, that the Duke
of

of Argyle can assemble five thousand men in arms, of his own clan and surname, which is Campbell; and there is besides a tribe of the same appellation, whose chief is the Earl of Breadalbine. The Macdonalds are as numerous, and remarkably warlike: the Camerons, M'Leods, Frazers, Grants, M'Kenzies, M'Kays, M'Phersons, M'Intoshes, are powerful clans; so that if all the Highlanders, including the inhabitants of the isles were united, they could bring into the field an army of forty thousand fighting men, capable of undertaking the most dangerous enterprize. We have lived to see four thousand of them, without discipline, throw the whole kingdom of Great Britain into confusion. They attacked and defeated two armies of regular troops, accustomed to service. They penetrated into the centre of England; and afterwards marched back with deliberation, in the face of two other armies, through an enemy's country, where every precaution was taken to cut off their retreat. I know not any other people in Europe, who, without the use or knowledge of arms will attack regular forces sword in hand, if their chief will head them in battle. When disciplined, they cannot fail of being excellent soldiers. They do not walk like the generality of mankind, but trot and bounce like deer, as if they moved upon springs. They greatly excel the Lowlanders in all the exercises that require agility; they are incredibly abstemious, and patient of hunger and fatigue; so steeled against the weather, than in travelling, even when the ground is covered with snow, they never look for a house, or any other shelter but their plaid, in which they wrap themselves up, and go to sleep under the cope of heaven. Such people, in quality of soldiers, must be invincible, when the business is to perform quick marches in a difficult country, to strike sudden

strokes, beat up the enemy's quarters, harass their cavalry, and perform expeditions without the formality of magazines, baggage, forage, and artillery. The chieftainship of the Highlanders is a very dangerous influence, operating at the extremity of the island, where the eyes and hands of government cannot be supposed to see and act with precision and vigour. In order to break the force of clanship, administration has always practised the political maxim, *Divide et impera*. The legislator hath not only disarmed these mountaineers, but also deprived them of their ancient garb, which contributed in a great measure to keep up their military spirit; and their slavish tenures are all dissolved by act of parliament; so that they are at present as free and independent of their chiefs, as the law can make them: but the original attachment still remains, and is founded on something prior to the *feudal system*, about which the writers of this age have made such a pother, as if it was a new discovery like the *Copernican system*. Every peculiarity of policy, custom, and even temperament, is affectedly traced to this origin, as if the feudal constitution had not been common to almost all the natives of Europe. For my part, I expect to see the use of trunk-hose and buttered ale ascribed to the influence of the *feudal system*. The connection between the clans and their chiefs, is, without all doubt, *patriarchal*. It is founded on hereditary regard and affection, cherished through a long succession of ages. The clan consider the chief as their father, they bear his name, they believe themselves descended from his family, and they obey him as their lord, with all the ardour of filial love and veneration; while he, on his part, exerts a paternal authority, commanding, chastising, rewarding, protecting, and maintaining them as his own children.

If

If the legislature would entirely destroy this connection, it must compel the Highlanders to change their habitation and their names. Even this experiment has been formerly tried without success—In the reign of James VI. a battle was fought within a few short miles of this place, between two clans, the M'Gregors and the Colquhouns, in which the latter were defeated; the laird of M'Gregor made such a barbarous use of his victory, that he was forfeited and outlawed by act of parliament: his lands were given to the family of Montrose, and his clan were obliged to change their name. They obeyed so far as to call themselves severally Campbell, Graham, or Drummond, the surnames of the families of Argyle, Montrose, and Perth, that they might enjoy the protection of those houses; but they still add M'Gregor to their new appellation; and as their chief was deprived of his estate, they robbed and plundered for his subsistence.

—————Mr Cameron of Lochiel, the chief of that clan, whose father was attainted for having been concerned in the last rebellion, returning from France, in obedience to a proclamation and act of parliament, passed at the beginning of the late war, paid a visit to his own country, and hired a farm in the neighbourhood of his father's house, which had been burnt to the ground. The clan, though ruined and scattered, no sooner heard of his arrival, than they flocked to him from all quarters, to welcome his return, and in a few days stocked his farm with seven hundred black cattle, which they had saved in the general wreck of their affairs: but their beloved chief, who was a promising youth, did not live to enjoy the fruits of their fidelity and attachment.

The most effectual method I know to weaken, and at length destroy this influence, is to employ the commonality in such a manner as to give

them a taste of property and independence.—In vain the government grants them advantageous leases on the forfeited estates, if they have no property to prosecute the means of improvement——The sea is an inexhaustible fund of riches; but the fishery cannot be carried on without vessels, casks, salt, lines, nets, and other tackle. I conversed with a sensible man of this country, who, from a real spirit of patriotism, had set up a fishery on the coast, and a manufacture of coarse linen, for the employment of the poor Highlanders. Cod is here in such plenty, that he told me he had seen seven hundred taken on one line, at one hawl——It must be observed, however, that the line was of immense length, and had two thousand hooks, baited with muscles; but the fish was so superior to the cod caught on the banks of Newfoundland, that his correspondent at Lisbon sold them immediately at his own price, although Lent was just over when they arrived, and the people might be supposed quite cloyed with this kind of diet—His linen manufacture was likewise in a prosperous way, when the late war intervening, all his best hands were pressed into the service.

It cannot be expected that the gentlemen of this country should execute commercial schemes to render their vassals independent; nor, indeed, are such schemes suited to their way of life and inclination; but a company of merchants might, with proper management, turn, to good account a fishery established in this part of Scotland——Our people have a strange itch to colonize America, when the uncultivated parts of our own island might be settled to greater advantage.

After having rambled through the mountains and glens of Argyle, we visited the adjacent islands of Ila, Jura, Mull, and Icolmkill. In the first, we saw the remains of a castle, built in a lake,
where

where Macdonald, Lord or King of the isles, formerly resided. Jura is famous for having given birth to one Mackcrain, who lived one hundred and eighty years in one house, and died in the reign of Charles the Second. Mull affords several bays, where is safe anchorage; in one of which, the Florida, a ship of the Spanish armada, was blown up by one of Mr. Smoller's ancestors.—— About forty years ago, John Duke of Argyle is said to have consulted the Spanish registers, by which it appeared, that this ship had the military chest on board.——He employed experienced divers to examine the wreck, and they found the hull of the vessel still entire, but so covered with sand, that they could not make their way between decks, however they picked up several pieces of plate that were scattered about in the bay, and a couple of fine brass cannon.

Icolmkill, or Iona, is a small island which St. Columba chose for his habitation.—— It was respected for its sanctity, and college or seminary of ecclesiastics.——Part of its church is still standing, with the tombs of several Scottish, Irish, and Danish sovereigns, who were here interred.—— These islanders are very bold and dexterous watermen, consequently the best adapted to the fishery: in their manners they are less savage and impetuous than their countrymen on the continent; and they speak the Erse or Gaelic in its greatest purity.

Having sent our horses round by land, we embarked in the district of Cowal for Greenock, which is a neat little town, on the other side of the Firth, with a curious harbour, formed by three stone jetties, carried out a good way into the sea.—— Newport Glasgow is such another place, about two miles higher up.—— Both have a face of business and plenty, and are supported entirely by the

shipping of Glasgow, of which I counted sixty large vessels in these harbours.—Taking boat again at Newport, we were in less than an hour landed on the other side, within two short miles of our head-quarters, where we found our women in good health and spirits.—They had been two days before joined by Mr Smollet and his lady, to whom we have such obligations as I cannot mention, even to you, without blushing.

To-morrow we shall bid adieu to the Scots Arcadia, and begin our progress to the southward, taking our way by Lanark and Nithsdale, to the west borders of England. I have received so much advantage and satisfaction from this tour, that if my health suffers no revolution in the winter, I believe I shall be tempted to undertake another expedition to the Northern extremity of Caithness, unencumbered by those impediments which now clog the heels of

Yours,

Cameron, Sept. 6.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Miss LÆTITIA WILLIS, at Gloucester.

MY DEAREST LETTY,

NEVER did a poor prisoner long for deliverance more than I have longed for an opportunity to disburden my cares into your friendly bosom; and the occasion which now presents itself, is little less than miraculous.—Honest Saunders Macawley, the travelling Scotfman, who goes every year to Wales, is now at Glasgow, buying goods, and coming to pay his respects to our family, has undertaken

dertaken to deliver this letter into your own hand— We have been six weeks in Scotland, and seen the principal towns of this kingdom, where we have been treated with great civility—The people are very courteous: and the country being exceedingly romantic, suits my turn and inclinations——I contracted some friendship at Edinburgh, which is a large and lofty city, full of gay company; and, in particular, commenced an intimate correspondence with one Miss R—t—n, an amiable young lady of my own age, whose charms seemed to soften and even to subdue the stubborn heart of my brother Jerry; but he no sooner left the place than he relapsed into his former insensibility—I feel, however, that his indifference is not the family constitution—I never admitted but one idea of love, and that has taken such a root in my heart, as to be equally proof against all the pulls of discretion, and the frost of neglect.

Dear Letty! I had an alarming adventure at the hunters ball in Edinburgh—— While I sat discoursing with a friend in a corner, all at once the very image of Wilson stood before me, dressed exactly as he was in the character of Aimwell! It was one Mr Gordon, whom I had not seen before—— Shocked at the sudden apparition, I fainted away, and threw the whole assembly in confusion—— However, the cause of my disorder remained a secret to every body but my brother, who was likewise struck with the resemblance, and scolded after we came home—— I am very sensible of Jerry's affection, and know he spoke as well with a view to my own interest and happiness, as in regard to the honour of the family; but I cannot bear to have my wounds probed severely—— I was not so much affected by the censure he passed upon my own indiscretion, as with the reflection he made on the conduct of Wilson—— He observed, that

that if he was really the gentleman he pretended to be, and harboured nothing but honourable designs he would have vindicated his pretensions in the face of day.—This remark made a deep impression upon my mind.—I endeavoured to conceal my thoughts; and this endeavour had a bad effect upon my health and spirits; so it was thought necessary that I should go to the Highlands, and drink the goat-milk-whey.

We went accordingly to Lough-Lomond, one of the most enchanting spots in the whole world; and what with this remedy, which I had every morning fresh from the mountains, and the pure air, and cheerful company, I have recovered my flesh and appetite; though there is something still at bottom, which it is in the power of air, exercise, company, or medicine to remove.——

These incidents would not touch me so nearly, if I had a sensible confidant to sympathize with my affliction, and comfort me with wholesome advice——

I have nothing of this kind, except Winifred Jenkins, who is really a good body in the main, but very ill qualified for such an office——The poor creature is weak in her nerves, as well as in her understanding; otherwise I might have known the true name and character of that unfortunate youth——

But why did I call him *unfortunate*? perhaps the epithet is more applicable to me, for having listened to the false pretensions of——But, hold! I have as yet no right, and sure I have no inclination to believe any thing to the prejudice of his honour——

In that reflection, I shall still exert my patience——As for Mrs Jenkins, she herself is really an object of compassion——Between vanity, Methodism, and love, her head is almost turned. I should have more regard for her, however, if she had been more constant in the object of her affection;

tion; but, truly, she aimed at conquest, and flirted at the same time with my uncle's footman, Humphry Clinker, who is really a deserving young man, and one Dutton, my brother's valet de chambre, a debauched fellow, who, leaving Win in the lurch, ran away with another man's bride at Berwick.

My dear Willis, I am truly ashamed of my own sex———We complain of advantages which the men take of our youth, inexperience, sensibility, and all that; but I have seen enough to believe, that our sex in general make it their business to ensnare the other; and for this purpose, employ arts which are by no means to be justified——In point of constancy, they certainly have nothing to reproach the male part of the creation——My poor aunt, without any regard to her years and imperfections, has gone to market with her charms in every place where she thought she had the least chance to dispose of her person, which however hangs still heavy on her hands——I am afraid she has used even religion as a decoy, though it has not answered her expectation——She has been praying, preaching, and catechising among the Methodists, with whom this country abounds: and pretends to have such manifestations and revelations, as even Clinker himself can hardly believe, though the poor fellow is half crazy with enthusiasm. As for Jenkins, she affects to take all her mistresses reveries for gospel——She has also her heart-heavings and motions of the spirit; and, God forgive me, if I think uncharitably, but all this seems to me to be downright hypocrisy and deceit——Perhaps, indeed, the poor girl imposes on herself——She is generally in a flutter, and is much subject to vapours——Since we came to Scotland, she has seen apparitions,
and

and pretends to prophecy—If I could put faith in all these supernatural visitations, I should think myself abandoned of grace: for I have neither seen, heard, nor felt any thing of this nature, although I endeavour to discharge the duties of religion with all the sincerity, zeal and devotion, that is in the power of,

Dear Letty,

Your ever affectionate,

Glasgow, Sept. 7.

LYDIA MELFORD.

We are so far on our return to Brambleton-hall; and I would fain hope we shall take Gloucester in our way, in which case I shall have the inexpressible pleasure of embracing my dear Willis—Pray remember me to my worthy governess.

To Mrs MARY JONES, at Brambleton-hall.

DEAR MARY,

SUNDERS MACULLY the Scotsman, who pushes directly for Vails, has promised to give it you into your own hand, and therefore I would not miss the opportunity to let you know as I am still in the land of the living; and yet I have been on the brink of the other world since I sent you my last letter.———We went by sea to another kingdom called Fife, and, coming back, had like to have gone to pot in a storm.———What between the frite and sickness, I thought I should have brought my heart up: even Mr Clirker was not his own man for eight and forty hours after we got ashore.———It was well for some folks that we
'scaped.

escaped drowning; for mistress was very trexious, and seemed but indifferently prepared for a change, but, thank God, she was soon put in a better frame by the private exaltations of the reverend Mr Macrocodile.——We afterwards churned to Starling and Grascow, which are a kipple of handsome towns; and then we went to a gentleman's house at Loff-Loming, which is a wonderful sea of fresh water, with a power of hylands in the midst on't——The say as how it has got ne'er a bottom, and was made by a musician; and, truly, I believe it; for it is not in the coarse of nature.——It has got *waves without wind, fish without fins, and a floating byland*; and one of them is a crutch-yard, where the dead are buried; and always before the person dies, a bell rings of itself to give warning.

O Mary! this is the land of congryation——The bell knolled when we were there——I saw lights, and heard lamentations——The gentleman, our landlord, has got another house, which he was fain to quit, on account of a mischievous ghost, that would not suffer people to lie in their beds.——The faries dwell in a hole of Kairmann, a mountain hard by; and they steal away the good women that are in the straw, if so be as how there a'n't a horse shoe nailed to the door: and I was shewn an old vitch called Elspath-Ringavey, with a red petticoat, bleared eyes, and a mould of gray bristles on her sin.——That she mought do me no harm, I crossed her hand with a taster, and bid her tell my fortune; and she told me such things—describing Mr Clinker to a hair——but it shall ne'er be said, that I menchioned a word of the matter.——As I was troubled with fits, she advised me to bathe in the loff, which was holy water; and so I went in the morning to a private place along with the house-maid, and we bathed in our birth-day foot, after the fashion of the country; and behold, whilst we dabbled in the loff, Sir George Coon

Coon started up with a gun ; but we clapt our hands to our faces, and passed by him to the place where we had left our smocks—A civil gentleman would have turned his head another way—My comfit is, he knew not which was which ; and as the saying is *all cats in the dark are grey*—While we staid at Loff Loming, he and our two 'quires went three or four days a churning among the wild men of the mountains ; a parcel of selvidges that lie in caves among the rocks, devour young children, speak Velsk, but the vords are different. Our ladies would not part with Mr Clinker, because he is so stout, and so pyehouse, that he fears neither man nor devils, if so be as they don't take him by surprise.—Indeed, he was once so flurried by an operation, that he had like to have sounded ————He made believe as if it had been the ould admiral ; but the ould admiral could not have made his hair to stand on end, and his teeth to shatter ; but he said so in prudence, that the ladies mought not be affear'd. Miss Liddy has been puny, and like to go into a decline—I doubt her pore art is too tender, but the got's-fey has seat her on her legs again—You know got's-few is mother milk to a Velskvoman—As for mistress, blessed be God, she ails nothing.—Her stomick is good, and she improves in grease and godliness ; but, for all that, she may have infections like other people, and I believe, she wouldn't be forry to be called *your Ladyship*, whenever Sir George thinks proper to ax the question—But, for my part, whatever I may see or hear, not a praticle shall ever pass the lips of,

Dear Molly,

Your loving friend,

Glasgo, Sept. 9.

WIN. JENKINS.

Remember

Remember me, as usual, to Saul.—We are now coming home, though not the nearest road.—I do suppose, I shall find the kitten a fine boar at my return.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. at Oxon.

DEAR KNIGHT,

ONCE more I tread upon English ground, which I like not the worse for the six weeks ramble I have made among the woods and mountains of Caledonia; no offence to the *land of cakes*, where *bannocks grow upon straw*. I never saw my uncle in such health and spirits as he now enjoys. Liddy is perfectly recovered; and Mrs Tabitha has no reason to complain. Nevertheless, I believe, she was, till yesterday, inclined to give the whole Scots nation to the devil, as a pack of insensible brutes, upon whom her accomplishments had been displayed in vain.—— At every place where we halted, did she mount the stage, and flourished her rusty arms, without being able to make one conquest. One of her last essays was against the heart of Sir George Colquhoun, with whom she fought all the weapons more than twice over. She was grave and gay by turns——she moralized and methodized——she laughed, and romped; and danced, and sung, and sighed, and ogled, and lisped, and fluttered, and flattered——but all was preaching to the desert.——The baronet being a well-bred man, carried his civilities as far as she could in conscience expect, and, if evil tongues are to be believed, some degrees farther; but he was too much a veteran in gallantry, as well as in war, to fall into any ambuscade that she could lay for

his affection. While we were absent in the Highlands, she practised also upon the Laird of Ladrishmore, and even gave him the rendezvous in the wood of Drumscailloch; but the laird had such a reverend care of his own reputation, that he came attended with the parson of the parish, and nothing passed but spiritual communication.——After all these miscarriages, our aunt suddenly recollected lieutenant Lismahago, whom ever since our first arrival at Edinburgh, she seemed to have utterly forgot; but now she expressed her hopes of seeing him at Dumfries, according to his promise.

We set out for Glasgow by the way of Lanark, the county-town of Clydesdale, in the neighbourhood of which, the whole river Clyde, rushing down a steep rock, forms a very noble and stupendous cascade. Next day we were obliged to halt in a small borough, until the carriage, which had received some damage, should be repaired; and here we met with an incident which warmly interested the benevolent spirit of Mr Bramble.——As we stood at the window of an inn that fronted the public prison, a person arrived on horseback, genteelly, though plainly dressed in a blue frock with his own hair cut short, and a gold laced hat upon his head.——Alighting, and giving his horse to the landlord, he advanced to an old man who was at work in paving the street, and accosted him in these words: “This is hard work for such an old man as you.”——So saying, he took the instrument out of his hand, and began to thump the pavement.——After a few strokes, “Have you never a son (said he) to ease you of this labour?” “Yes, an’ please your honour, (replied the senior) “I have three hopeful lads, but, at present, they “are out of the way.” “Honour not me (cried the stranger); it more becomes me to honour “your grey hairs——Where are those sons you talk of?”

"of?" The ancient pavier said, his eldest son was a captain in the East-Indies; and the youngest had lately enlisted as a soldier, in hopes of prospering like his brother. The gentleman desiring to know what was become of the second, he wiped his eyes, and owned, he had taken upon him his old father's debts, for which he was now in the prison hard by.

The traveller made three quick steps towards the gaol, then turning short, "Tell me, (said he) has that unnatural captain sent you nothing to relieve your distresses?" "Call him not unnatural (replied the other); God's blessing be upon him! he sent me a great deal of money; but I made a bad use of it; I lost it by being security for a gentleman that was my landlord, and was stripped of all I had in the world besides." At that instant a young man, thrusting out his head and neck between two iron bars in the prison-window, exclaimed, "Father! father! if my brother William is a life, that's he!" "I am! ——— I am! ——— (cried the stranger, clasping the old man in his arms, and shedding a flood of tears) ——— I am your son Willy, sure enough!" Before the father, who was quite confounded, could make any return to this tenderness, a decent old woman bolting out from the door of a poor habitation, cried, "Where is my bairn? where is my dear Willy!" ——— The captain no sooner beheld her, than he quitted his father, and ran into her embrace.

I can assure you, my uncle, who saw and heard every thing that passed, was as much moved as any one of the parties concerned in this pathetic recognition. ——— He sobbed, and wept, and clapped his hands, and hollowed, and finally ran down into the street. ——— By this time, the captain had retired with his parents, and all the inhabitants of

the place were assembled at the door.—— Mr Bramble, nevertheless, pressed through the crowd, and entering the house, “ Captain, (said he) I beg “ the favour of your acquaintance—— I would have “ travelled a hundred miles to see this affecting scene; “ and I shall think myself happy, if you and your parents will dine with me at the public house.” The captain thanked him for his kind invitation, which, he said, he would accept with pleasure; but, in the mean time, he could not think of eating or drinking, while his poor brother was in trouble.—— He forthwith deposited a sum equal to the debt in the hands of the magistrate, who ventured to set his brother at liberty without farther process; and then the whole family repaired to the inn with my uncle, attended by the crowd, the individuals of which shook their townsman by the hand, while he returned their caresses without the least sign of pride or affectation.

This honest favourite of fortune, whose name was Brown, told my uncle, that he had been bred a weaver, and about eighteen years ago, had from a spirit of idleness and dissipation, enlisted as a soldier in the service of the East-India Company; that, in the course of duty, he had the good fortune to attract the notice and approbation of lord Clive, who preferred him from one step to another, till he had attained the rank of captain and pay master to the regiment, in which capacities he had honestly amassed above twelve thousand pounds, and at the peace resigned his commission.—— He had sent several remittances to his father, who received the first only, consisting of one hundred pounds; the second had fallen into the hands of a bankrupt; and the third had been consigned to a gentleman of Scotland, who died before it arrived; so that it still remained to be accounted for

for by his executors. He now presented the old man with fifty pounds for his present occasions, over and above bank notes for one hundred, which he had deposited for his brother's release.——He brought along with him a deed ready executed, by which he settled a perpetuity of fourscore pounds upon his parents, to be inherited by the other two sons after their decease.——He promised to purchase a commission for his youngest brother; to take the other as his own partner in a manufacture which he intends to set up, to give employment and bread to the industrious; and to give five hundred pounds, by way of dower, to his sister, who had married a farmer in low circumstances.——Finally, he gave fifty pounds to the poor of the town where he was born, and feasted all the inhabitants without exception.

My uncle was so charmed with the character of captain Brown, that he drank his health three times successively at dinner.——He said, he was proud of his acquaintance; that he was an honour to his country, and had in some measure redeemed human nature from the reproach of pride, selfishness and ingratitude.——For my part, I was as much pleased with the modesty as with the filial virtue of this honest soldier, who assumed no merit from his success, and said very little of his own transactions, though the answers he made to our enquiries were equally sensible and laconic. Mrs Tabitha behaved very graciously to him, until she understood that he was going to make a tender of his hand to a person of low estate, who had been his sweetheart while he worked as a journeyman weaver.——Our aunt was no sooner made acquainted with this design, than she starched up her behaviour with a double proportion of reserve; and when the company broke up, she observed, with a toss of her nose, that Brown

was a civil fellow enough, considering the lowness of his origin; but that Fortune, though she had mended his circumstances, was incapable to raise his ideas, which were still humble and plebeian.

On the day that succeeded this adventure, we went some miles out of our road to see Drumlanrig, a seat belonging to the Duke of Queensbury, which appears like a magnificent palace erected by magic, in the midst of a wilderness. — It is indeed a princely mansion, with suitable parks and plantations, rendered still more striking by the nakedness of the surrounding country, which is one of the wildest tracts in all Scotland. — This wildness, however, is different from that of the Highlands; for here the mountains, instead of heath, are covered with a fine green sward, affording pasture to innumerable flocks of sheep. But the fleeces of this country, called Nithsdale, are not comparable to the wool of Galloway, which is said to equal that of Salisbury plain. Having passed the night at the castle of Drumlanrig, by invitation from the duke himself, who is one of the best of men that ever breathed, we prosecuted our journey to Dumfries, a very elegant trading town near the borders of England, where we found plenty of good provision and excellent wine, at very reasonable prices, and the accomodation as good in all respects as in any part of South-Britain. — If I was confined to Scotland for life, I would choose Dumfries as the place of my residence. Here we made enquiries about captain Lismahago, of whom hearing no tidings, we proceeded by the Solway Firth, to Carlisle. You must know, that the Solway sands, upon which travellers pass at low water, are exceedingly dangerous, because, as the tide makes, they become quick in different places, and the flood rushes in so impetuously, that passengers are often overtaken by the sea, and perish.

In

In crossing these treacherous Syrtes with a guide, we perceived a drowned horse, which Humphry Clinker, after due inspection, declared to be the very identical beast which Mr Lismahago rode when he parted with us at Felton-bridge, in the county of Northumberland. This information, which seemed to intimate that our friend, the lieutenant, had shared the fate of his horse, affected us all, and above all our aunt Tabitha, who shed salt tears, and obliged Clinker to pull a few hairs out of the dead horse's tail, to be worn in a ring as a remembrance of his master; but her grief and ours was not of long duration; for one of the first persons we saw in Carlisle, was the lieutenant *in propria persona*, bargaining with a horse-dealer for another steed, in the yard of the inn where we alighted. —

Mrs Bramble was the first that perceived him, and screamed as if she had seen a ghost; and truly, at a proper time and place, he might very well have passed for an inhabitant of another world; for he was more meagre and grim than before. —

We received him the more cordially for having supposed he had been drowned; and he was not deficient in expressions of satisfaction at this meeting — He told us he had enquired for us at Dumfries, and been informed by a travelling merchant from Glasgow, that we had resolved to return by the way of Coldstream. — He said, that, in passing the sands without a guide, his horse had knocked up; and he himself must have perished, if he had not been providentially relieved by a return post chaise. —

He moreover gave us to understand, that his scheme of settling in his own country having miscarried, he was so far on his way to London, with a view to embark for north America, where he intended to pass the rest of his days among his old friends, the Miamis, and amuse himself in finishing the

the education of the son he had by his beloved Squinkinacoofta.

This project was by no means agreeable to our good aunt, who expatiated upon the fatigues and dangers that would attend such a long voyage by sea, and afterwards such a tedious journey by land.—She enlarged particularly on the risque he would run, with respect to the concerns of his precious soul, among savages who had not yet received the glad tidings of salvation; and she hinted that his abandoning Great Britain might, perhaps, prove fatal to the inclinations of some deserving person, whom he was qualified to make happy for life. My uncle who is really a Don Quixote in generosity, understanding that Lismahago's real reason for leaving Scotland was the impossibility of subsisting in it with any decency upon the wretched provision of a subaltern's half pay, began to be warmly interested on the side of compassion. He thought it very hard, that a gentleman, who had served his country with honour, should be driven by necessity to spend his old age, among the refuse of mankind, in such a remote part of the world.—He discoursed with me upon the subject; observing, that he would willingly offer the lieutenant an assylum at Brambleton-hall, if he did not foresee his singularities and humour of contradiction would render him an intolerable house-mate, though his conversation at some times might be both instructive and entertaining; but, as there seemed to be something particular in his attention to Mrs Tabitha, he and I agreed in opinion, that this intercourse should be encouraged, and improved, if possible, into a matrimonial union; in which case there would be a comfortable provision for both; and they might be settled in a house of their own, so that Mr Bramble should have no more of their company than he desired.

In pursuance of this design, Lismahago has been
invited

HUMPHRY CLINKER.

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invited to pass the winter at Brambleton-hall, as it will be time enough to execute his American project in the spring.—He has taken time to consider of this proposal; mean while, he will keep us company as far as we travel in the road to Bristol, where he has hope, of getting a passage for America. I make no doubt but that he will postpone his voyage, and prosecute his addresses to a happy consummation; and sure, if it produces any fruit, it must be of a very peculiar flavour. As the weather continues favourable, I believe, we shall take the Peak of Derbyshire and Buxton Wells in our way.—At any rate, from the first place where we make any stay, you shall hear again from,

Yours always,

Carlisle, Sept. 12.

J. MELFORD.

To Dr LEWIS.

DEAR DOCTOR,

THE peasantry of Scotland are certainly on a poor footing all over the kingdom; and yet they look better, and are better clothed than those of the same rank in Burgundy, and many other places of France and Italy; nay, I will venture to say they are better fed, notwithstanding the boasted wine of these foreign countries. The country people of North-Britain live chiefly on oat-meal and milk, cheese, butter, and some garden stuff, with now and then a pickled-herring, by way of delicacy; but flesh meat they seldom or never taste; nor any kind of strong

strong liquor, except two-penny, at times of uncommon festivity——Their breakfast is a kind of hasty-pudding, of oat-meal, or pease-meal, eaten with milk. They have commonly pottage to dinner, composed of kale or cole, leeks, barley or big, and butter; and this is reinforced with bread and cheese, made of skimmed milk——At night they sup on sowens or flummery of oat-meal——In a scarcity of oats, they use the meal of barley and pease, which is both nourishing and palatable. Some of them have potatoes; and you find parsnips in every peasants garden——They are clothed with a coarse kind of russet of their own making, which is both decent and warm——They dwell in poor huts, built of loose stones and turf, without any mortar, having a fire-place or hearth in the middle, generally made of an old mill-stone, and a hole at top to let out the smoke.

These people, however, are content, and wonderfully sagacious——All of them read the Bible, and are even qualified to dispute upon the articles of their faith; which, in those parts I have seen, is entirely Presbyterian. I am told, that the inhabitants of Aberdeenshire are still more acute. I once knew a Scots gentleman at London, who had declared war against this part of his country; and swore that the impudence and knavery of the Scots, in that quarter, had brought a reproach upon the whole nation.

The river Clyde, above Glasgow, is quite pastoral; and the banks of it are every where adorned with fine villas. From the sea to its source, we may reckon the seats of many families of the first rank, such as the duke of Argyle at Roseneath, the earl of Bute in the isle of that name, the earl of Glencairn at Finlayston, lord Blantyre at Areskine, the dutchess of Douglas at Bothwell, duke of Hamilton at Hamilton, the duke of Douglas at Douglas, and the earl

earl of Hyndford at Carmichael. Hamilton is a noble palace, magnificently furnished; and hard by is the village of that name, one of the neatest little towns I have seen in any country. The old castle of Douglas being burned to the ground by accident, the late duke resolved, as head of the first family of Scotland, to have the largest house in the kingdom, and ordered a plan for this purpose; but there was only one wing of it finished when he died. It is to be hoped that his nephew, who is now in possession of this great fortune, will complete the design of his predecessor——Clydesdale is in general populous and rich, containing a great number of gentlemen, who are independent in their fortune; but it produces more cattle than corn——This is also the case with Tweedale, through part of which we passed, and Niddale, which is generally rough, wild, and mountainous——These hills are covered with sheep; and this is the small delicious mutton, so much preferable to that of the London market. As their feeding costs so little, the sheep are not killed till five years old, when their flesh, juices, and flavour are in perfection; but their fleeces are much damaged by the tar with which they are smeared to preserve them from the rot in winter, during which they run wild night and day, and thousands are lost under huge wreaths of snow—'Tis pity the farmers cannot contrive some means to shelter this useful animal from the inclemencies of a rigorous climate, especially from the perpetual rains, which are more prejudicial than the greatest extremity of cold weather.

On the little river Nid, is situated the castle of Drumlanrig, one of the noblest seats in Great-Britain, belonging to the duke of Queensbury; one of those few noblemen whose goodness of heart does honour to human nature.——I shall not pretend

tend to enter into a description of this palace, which is really an instance of the sublime in magnificence, as well as in situation, and puts one in mind of the beautiful city of Palmyra, rising like a vision in the midst of the wilderness. His grace keeps open house, and lives with great splendour—He did us the honour to receive us with great courtesy, and detain us all night, together with above twenty other guests, with all their servants and horses, to a very considerable number—The dutchess was equally gracious, and took our ladies under her immediate protection. The longer I live, I see more reason to believe that prejudices of education are never wholly eradicated, even when they are discovered to be erroneous and absurd. Such habits of thinking as interest the grand passions, cleave to the human heart in such a manner, that though an effort of reason may force them from their hold for a moment, this violence no sooner ceases, than they resume their grasp with an increased elasticity and adhesion.

I am led into this reflection, by what passed at the Duke's table after supper. The conversation turned upon the vulgar notions of spirits and omens, that prevail among the commonalty of North-Britain, and all the company agreed, that nothing could be more ridiculous. One gentleman, however, told a remarkable story of himself, by way of speculation——“Being on a party of
 “hunting in the North, (said he) I resolved to
 “visit an old friend, whom I had not seen for twenty years—So long he had been retired and sequestered from all his acquaintance, and lived in a
 “moping melancholy way, much afflicted with lowness of spirits, occasioned by the death of his wife,
 “whom he had loved with uncommon affection.
 “As he resided in a remote part of the country,
 “and we were five gentlemen, with as many servants,

“vants, we carried some provision with us from the
“next market town, lest we should find him unpre-
“pared for our reception: The roads being bad,
“we did not arrive at the house till two o’clock in
“the afternoon: and were agreeably surpris’d to
“find a very good dinner ready in the kitchen, and
“the cloth laid with six covers. My friend him-
“self appeared in his best apparel at the gate, and
“received us with open arms, telling me he had
“been expecting us these two hours——
“Astonish’d at this declaration, I asked who had
“given him intelligence of our coming? and he
“smiled, without making any other reply——
“However, presuming upon our former intimacy,
“I afterwards insist’d upon knowing; and he told
“me, very gravely, he had seen me in a vision of
“the second sight——Nay, he called in
“the evidence of his steward, who solemnly de-
“clared, that his master had the day before ap-
“pris’d him of my coming, with four other stran-
“gers, and order’d him to provide accordingly;
“in consequence of which intimation, he had pre-
“pared the dinner which we were now eating;
“and laid the covers according to the number fore-
“told.” The incident we all own’d to be remark-
able, and I endeavour’d to account for it by na-
tural means. I observ’d, that as the gentleman
was of a visionary turn, the casual idea, or re-
membrance of his old friend, might suggest those
circumstances which accident had for once realiz’d;
but that in all probability he had seen many vi-
sions of the same kind, which were never verifi’d.
None of the company directly dissented from my
opinion; but from the objections that were hint’d,
I could plainly perceive, that the majority were per-
suaded there was something more extraordinary in
the case.

Another gentleman of the company, addressing himself to me, "Without all doubt, (said he) a diseased imagination is very apt to produce visions; but we must find some other method to account for something of this kind, that happened within these eight days in my neighbourhood———

"A gentleman of a good family, who cannot be deemed a visionary in any sense of the word, was near his own gate, in the twilight, visited by his grandfather, who has been dead these fifteen years.———The spectre was mounted seemingly on the very horse he used to ride, with an angry and terrible countenance, and said something, which his grandson, in the confusion of his fear, could not understand. But this was not all———He lifted up a huge horse-whip, and applied it with great violence to his back and shoulders, on which I saw the impression with my own eyes. The apparition was afterwards seen by the sexton of the parish, hovering about the tomb where his body lies interred; as the man declared to several persons in the village, before he knew what had happened to the gentleman———

"Nay, he actually came to me as justice of the peace, in order to make oath of these particulars, which, however, I declined administering. As for the grandson of the defunct, he is a sober, sensible, worldly-minded fellow, too intent upon schemes of interest to give into reveries. He would have willingly concealed the affair; but he bawled out in the first transport of his fear, and running into the house, exposed his back and his scone to the whole family; so that there was no denying it in the sequel. It is now the common discourse of the country, that this appearance and behaviour of the old man's spirit, portends some great calamity to the family, and the good wo-

"man

"man has actually taken to her bed in this apprehension."

Though I did not pretend to explain this mystery, I said, I did not at all doubt, but it would one day appear to be deception; and, in all probability, a scheme executed by some enemy of the person who had sustained the assault: but still the gentleman insisted upon the clearness of the evidence, and the concurrence of testimony, by which two creditable witnesses without any communication one with another, affirmed the appearance of the same man, with whose person they were both well acquainted——From Drumlanrig we pursued the course of the Nid to Dumfries, which stands several miles above the place where the river falls into the sea; and is, after Glasgow, the handsomest town I have seen in Scotland——The inhabitants indeed, seem to have proposed that city as their model; not only in beautifying their town and regulating its police, but also in prosecuting their schemes of commerce and manufacture, by which they are grown rich and opulent.

We re-entered England by the way of Carlisle, where we accidentally met with our friend Lismahago, whom we had in vain enquired after at Dumfries and other places————It would seem that the captain, like the prophets of old, is but little honoured in his own country, which he has now renounced for ever————He gave me the following particulars of his visit to his native soil————In his way to the place of his nativity, he learned that his nephew had married the daughter of a bourgeois, who directed a weaving manufacture, and had gone into partnership with his father-in-law: chagrined with this information, he had arrived at the gate in the twilight, where he heard the sound of treadles in the great hall, which had exasperated him to such a degree, that he had like to have lost his

senses; while he was thus transported with indignation, his nephew chanced to come forth, when, being no longer master of his passion, he cried, "Degenerate rascal! you have made my father's house a den of thieves;" and at the same time chastised him with his horse whip; then, riding round the adjoining village, he had visited the burying ground of his ancestors by moon light; and having paid his respects to their *manes*, travelled all night to another part of the country—Finding the head of his family in such a disgraceful situation, all his own friends dead or removed from the places of their former residence, and the expence of living encreased to double of what it had been, when he first left his native country, he had bid it an eternal adieu, and was determined to seek for repose among the forests of America.

I was no longer at a loss to account for the apparition, which had been described at Drumlanrig; and when I repeated the story to the lieutenant, he was much pleased to think his resentment had been so much more effectual than he intended; and he owned, he might at such an hour, and in such an equipage, very well pass for the ghost of his father, whom he was said greatly to resemble——Between friends, I fancy Lismahago will find a retreat without going so far as the wigwams of the Miamis. My sister Tabby is making continual advances to him, in the way of affection; and, if I may trust to appearances, the captain is disposed to take opportunity by the forelock. for my part, I intend to encourage this correspondence and shall be glad to see them united—In that case we shall find a way to settle them comfortably in our own neighbourhood. I, and my servants, will get rid of a very troublesome and tyrannic governante; and I shall have the benefit of Lismahago's conversation, without being obliged to take more of his company than I desire; for though an olla is a high-flavoured

flavoured dish, I could not bear to dine upon it every day of my life.

I am much pleased with Manchester, which is one of the most agreeable and flourishing towns in Great Britain; and I perceive, that this is the place which hath animated the spirit, and suggested the chief manufactures of Glasgow. We propose to visit Chastworth, the Peak, and Buxton, from which last place we shall proceed directly homewards, though by easy journeys. If the season has been as favourable in Wales as in the North, your harvest is happily finished; and we have nothing left to think of but our October, of which let Barns be properly reminded. You will find me much better in flesh than I was at our parting; and this short separation has given a new edge to those sentiments of friendship with which I always have been, and ever shall be,

Yours,

Manchester,
Sept. 15.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Mrs GWILLIM, House-keeper, at Brambleton-hall.

MRS GWILLIM,

IT has pleased providence to bring us safe back to England, and partake us in many pearls by land and water, in particular, the *Devil's Harse a pike*, and *Hoyden's Hole*, which hath got no bottom; and, as we are drawing huonwards, it may be proper to uprise you, that Brambleton-hall may be in a condition to receive us, after this long gurney to the islands of Scotland.

M 3

By

By the first of next month you may begin to make constant fires in my brother's chamber and mine: and burn a faggot every day in the yellow damask room: have the tester and curtains dusted, and the feather-beds and mattresses well haired; because, perhaps, with the blessing of heaven, they may be yooosed on some occasion. Let the ould hogsheds be well skewred and seasoned for bear, as Mat is resolved to have his feller choak-fool.

If the house was mine, I would turn over a new leaf————I don't see why the sarvants of Wales shouldn't drink fair water, and eat hot cakes and barley cale, as they do in Scotland, without troubling the botcher above once a quarter—I hope you keep accunt of Roger's pursefeeding in reverence to the butter milk. I expect my dew when I come huom, without baiting an afs, I'll assure you.——As you must have layed a great many more eggs than would be eaten, I do suppose there is a power of turks, chickings, and guzzling about the house; and a brave kergo of cheese ready for market; and that the owl has been sent to Crickhowel, saving what the maids spun in the family.

Pray let the whole house and furniture have a thorough cleaning from top to buttom, for the honour of Wales; and let Roger search into, and make a general clearance of the slit holes which the maids have in secret; for I know they are much given to sloath and uncleanness. I hope you have worked a reformation among them, as I exhorted you in my last, and let their hearts upon better things than they can find in junkitting and caterwauling with the fellows of the country.

As for Win Jenkins, she has undergone a perfect metamurphysis, and is become a new creeter from the ammunition of Humphry Clinker, our new footman, a pious young man, who has laboured exceedingly, that she may bring forth fruits of
repentance.

repentance. I make no doubt but he will take the same pains with that pert huffy Mary Jones, and all of you; and that ye may have power given to penetrate and instill his goodness, even into your most inward parts, is the fervent prayer of,

Your friend in the spirit,

Sept. 18.

TAB. BRAMBLE.

To Dr LEWIS.

DEAR LEWIS,

L ISMAHAGO is more paradoxal than ever.—The late gulp he had of his native air, seems to have blown fresh spirits into all his polemical faculties. I congratulated him the other day on the present flourishing state of his country, observing that the Scots were now in a fair way to wipe off the national reproach of poverty, and expressing my satisfaction at the happy effects of the union, so conspicuous in the improvement of their agriculture, commerce, manufactures and manners.—The lieutenant, screwing up his features into a look of dissent and disgust, commented on my remarks to this effect——“Those who reproach a nation for its poverty, when it is not owing to the profligacy or vice of the people, deserve no answer. The Lacedæmonians were poorer than the Scots, when they took the lead among all the free states of Greece, and were esteemed above them all for their valour and their virtue. The most respectable heroes of ancient Rome, such as Fabricius, Cincinnatus, and Regulus, were poorer than the poorest freeholder in Scotland; and there are at this day individuals in North-Britain, one of whom can produce

“ produce more gold and silver than the whole re-
 “ public of Rome could raise at those times when her
 “ public virtue shone with unrivalled lustre; and
 “ poverty was so far from being a reproach, that it
 “ added fresh laurels to her fame, because it indica-
 “ ted a noble contempt of wealth, which was proof
 “ against all the arts of corruption —————
 “ If poverty be a subject of reproach, it follows that
 “ wealth is the object of esteem and veneration
 “ ————— In that case there are Jews, and o-
 “ thers in Amsterdam and London, enriched by usu-
 “ ry, peculation, and different species of fraud and
 “ extortion, who are more estimable than the most
 “ virtuous and illustrious members of the commu-
 “ nity. An absurdity which no man in his senses
 “ will offer to maintain ————— Riches are cer-
 “ tainly no proof of merit: nay, they are often (if
 “ not most commonly,) acquired by persons of for-
 “ did minds and mean talents: nor do they give a-
 “ ny intrinsic worth to the possessor; but on the
 “ contrary, tend to prevent his understanding, and
 “ render his morals more depraved. But granting
 “ that poverty were really a matter of reproach, it can-
 “ not be justly imputed to Scotland. No country is
 “ poor that can supply its inhabitants with the neces-
 “ saries of life, and even afford articles for exporta-
 “ tion. Scotland is rich in natural advantages: it
 “ produces every species of provision in abundance,
 “ vast herds of cattle and flocks of sheep, with a great
 “ number of horses; prodigious quantities of wool
 “ and flax, with plenty of copse wood, and in some
 “ parts large forests of timber. The earth is still
 “ more rich below than above the surface. It yields
 “ inexhaustible stores of coal, free-stone, marble,
 “ lead, iron, copper, and silver, with some gold.
 “ The sea abounds with excellent fish, and salt to
 “ cure them for exportation; and there are creeks
 “ and

“and harbours round the whole kingdom, for the
“convenience and security of navigation. The
“face of the country, displays a surprising number
“of cities, towns, villas, and villages, swarming
“with people; and there seems to be no want
“of art, industry, government, and police; such a
“kingdom can never be called poor, in any sense
“of the word, though there may be many others
“more powerful and opulent. But the proper use of
“those advantages, and the present prosperity of the
“Scots, you seem to derive from the union of the two
“kingdoms.”

I said, I supposed he would not deny that the
appearance of the country was much mended; that
the people lived better, had more trade, and a greater
quantity of money circulating since the union, than
before. “I may safely admit these premises, (an-
“swered the lieutenant) without subscribing to your
“inference. The difference you mention, I should
“take to be the natural progress of improvement
“—————Since that period, other nations, such
“as the Swedes, the Danes, and, in particular, the
“French, have greatly increased in commerce, with-
“out any such cause assigned. Before the union,
“there was a remarkable spirit of trade among the
“Scots, as appeared in the case of there Darien
“company, in which they had embarked no less than
“four hundred thousand pounds sterling; and in the
“flourishing state of the maritime towns in Fife,
“and on the eastern coast, enriched by their trade,
“with France, which failed in consequence of the
“union. The only solid commercial advantage
“reaped from that measure, was the privilege of
“trading to the English plantations; yet, except-
“ing Glasgow and Dumfries, I don’t know any
“other Scots towns concerned in that traffic.
“In other respects, I conceive the Scots were lo-
“fers

“fers by the union.—They lost the independency of
“their state, the greatest prop of national spirit; they
“lost their parliament, and their courts of justice were
“subject to the revision and supremacy of an English
“tribunal.”

“Softly, Captain, (cried I) you cannot be said to
“have lost your own parliament, while you are re-
“presented in that of Great Britain.” “True, (said
“he, with a sarcastic grin) in debates of national
“competition, the sixteen peers and forty-five com-
“moners of Scotland, must make a formidable fi-
“gure in the scale, against the whole English legis-
“lature.” “Be that as it may, (I observed)
“while I had the honour to sit in the lower
“house, the Scots members had always the ma-
“jority on their side.” “I understand you, Sir,
“ (said he) they generally side with the majority;
“so much the worse for their constituents. But e-
“ven this evil is not the worst they have sustained
“by the union. Their trade has been fuddled with
“grievous impositions, and every article of living se-
“verely taxed, to pay the interest of enormous debts,
“contracted by the English, in support of measures
“and connections in which the Scots had no interest
“nor concern.” I begged he would at least allow
that by the union the Scots were admitted to all the
privileges, and immunities of English subjects; by
which means multitudes of them were provided for in
the army and navy, and got fortunes in different parts
of England and its dominions. “All these, (said he,
“become English subjects to all intents and pur-
“poses, and are in a great measure, lost to their mo-
“ther country. The spirit of rambling and adven-
“ture has been always peculiar to the natives of Scot-
“land. If they had not met with encourage-
“ment in England they would have served and set-
“tled as formerly, in other countries, such as
“Muscovy,

“ Muscovy, Sweeden, Denmark, Poland, Germany,
“ France, Piedmont, and Italy, in all which nations
“ their descendants continue to flourish even at this
“ day.”

By this time my patience began to fail, and I exclaimed, “ For God’s sake, what has England
“ got by this union, which you say, has been so pro-
“ ductive of misfortune to the Scots.” “ Great and
“ manifold are the advantages which England de-
“ rives from this union, (said Lismahago, in a solemn
“ tone, first and foremost, the settlement of the
“ Protestant succession, a point which the English
“ ministry drove with such eagerness, that no stone
“ was left unturned, to cajole and bribe a few lead-
“ ing men, to cram the union down the throats of
“ the Scottish nation, who were surprisingly reverse to
“ the expedient. They gained by it a considerable
“ addition of territory, extending their dominion
“ to the sea on all sides of the island, thereby
“ shutting up all back doors against the enterprizes
“ of their enemies. They got an accession of a-
“ bove a million of useful subjects, constituting
“ a never failing nursery of seamen, soldiers, la-
“ bourers and mechanics; a most valuable acqui-
“ sition to a trading country, exposed to foreign wars,
“ and obliged to maintain a number of settlements
“ in all the four quarters of the globe. In the
“ course of seven years, during the last war, Scot-
“ land furnished the English army and navy with
“ seventy thousand men, over and above those who
“ migrated to their colonies, or mingled with them
“ at home in the civil departments of life. This
“ was a very considerable and seasonable supply
“ to a nation, whose people had been for many
“ years decreasing in number, and whose land
“ and manufactures were actually suffering for
“ want of hands. I need not remind you of the
“ hackneyed

“hackneyed maxim, that, to a nation in such circumstances, a supply of industrious people is a supply in wealth; nor repeat an observation, which is now received as an eternal truth, even among the English themselves, that the Scots who settle in South Britain are remarkably sober, orderly, and industrious.”

I allowed the truth of this remark, adding, that, by their industry, œconomy, and circumspection, many of them in England, as well as in her colonies, amassed large fortunes, with which they returned to their own country, and this was so much lost to South-Britain.—— “Give me leave, Sir, (said he) to assure you, that in your fact you are mistaken, and in your deduction erroneous.——Not one in two hundred that leave Scotland ever returns to settle in his own country; and the few that do return, carry thither nothing that can possibly diminish the stock of South Britain; for none of their treasure stagnates in Scotland—— There is a continual circulation, like that of the blood of the human body, and England is the heart, to which all the streams which it distributes are refunded and returned; nay in consequence of that luxury which our connection with England hath greatly encouraged, if not introduced, all the produce of our lands, and all the profits of our trade, are engrossed by the natives of South Britain; for you will find that the exchange between the two kingdoms is always against Scotland; and that she retains neither gold nor silver sufficient for her own circulation—— The Scots, not content with their own manufactures and produce, which would very well answer all necessary occasions, seem to vie with each other in purchasing superfluities from England; such as broad-cloth, velvets, stuff, silks, lace, furs, jewels, furniture

“furniture of all sorts, sugar, rum, tea, chocolate,
 “and coffee; in a word, not only every mode of the
 “most extravagant luxury, but even many articles of
 “convenience, which they might find as good, and
 “much cheaper in their own country. For all these
 “particulars, England I conceive, may touch about
 “one million sterling a year. ——— I don’t pretend
 “to make an exact calculation; perhaps, it may be
 “something less, and, perhaps, a great deal more.
 “—————The annual revenue arising from all
 “the private estates of Scotland cannot fall short of
 “a million sterling; and I should imagine, their trade
 “will amount to as much more. ——— I know, the
 “linen manufacture alone returns near half a million,
 “exclusive of the home consumption of that article.
 “—————If, therefore, North-Britain pays a balance
 “of a million annually to England, I insist upon it,
 “that country is more valuable to her in the way of
 “commerce, than any colony in her possession,
 “over and above the other advantages which I
 “have specified: therefore, they are no friends
 “either to England or to truth, who affect to de-
 “preciate the northern part of the united king-
 “dom.”

I must own, I was at first a little nettled to find
 myself schooled in so many particulars. ———
 Though I did not receive all his assertions as gospel,
 I was not prepared to refute them; and I cannot
 help now acquiescing in his remarks so far as to think,
 that the contempt for Scotland, which prevails too
 much on this side of the Tweed, is founded on pre-
 judice and error ——— After some recollection,
 “Well Captain, (said I) you have argued stoutly for
 “the importance of your own country: for my part,
 “I have such a regard for our fellow subjects of
 “North-Britain, that I should be glad to see the
 “day, when your peasants can afford to give all
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“their oats to their cattle, hogs, and poultry, and
 “indulge themselves with good wheaten loaves in-
 “stead of such poor, unpalatable, and inflammatory
 “diet.” Here again I brought myself into a premu-
 nire with the disputatious Caledonian. He said, he
 hoped he should never see the common people lifted
 out of that sphere for which they were intended by
 nature and the course of things; that they might have
 some reason to complain of their bread, if it were
 mixed, like that of Norway, with saw-dust, and fish
 bones; but that oat-meal was, he apprehended, as
 nourishing and salutary as wheat-flour, and the Scots
 in general thought it at least as savoury.—He affirm-
 ed, that a mouse, which, in the article of self preser-
 vation, might be supposed to act from infallible in-
 stinct, would always prefer oats to wheat, as appeared
 from experience; for in a place where there was a
 parcel of each, that animal had never begun to feed
 upon the latter till all the oats were consumed; for
 their nutritive quality, he appealed to the hale, robust
 constitution of the people who lived chiefly upon oat-
 meal; and instead of being inflammatory, he asserted,
 that it was cooling subacid, balsamic and mucilagi-
 nous; inasmuch, that in all inflammatory distempers,
 recourse was had to water gruel, and flummery made
 of oat-meal.

“At least, (said I) give me leave to wish them
 “such a degree of commerce as may enable them to
 “follow their own inclinations.”——“Heaven for-
 “bid! (cried this philosopher.) Wo be to that na-
 “tion, where the multitude is at liberty to follow
 “their own inclinations! Commerce is undoubted-
 “ly a blessing, while restrained within its proper
 “channels; but a glut of wealth brings along with
 “it a glut of evils: it brings false taste, false appe-
 “tite, false wants, profusion, venality, contempt of
 “order, engendering a spirit of licentiousness, in-
 “solence, and faction, that keeps the community
 “in

"in continual ferment, and in time destroys all the
"distinctions of civil society; so that universal anarchy and uproar must ensue. Will any sensible man affirm, that the national advantages of
"opulence are to be sought on these terms? No
"sure; but I am one of those, who think, that, by
"proper regulations, commerce may produce every
"national benefit, without the alloy of such con-
"minant evils."

So much for the dogmata of my friend Lismahago, whom I describe the more circumstantially, as I firmly believe he will set up his rest in Monmouthshire. Yesterday, while I was alone with him, he asked in some confusion, if I should have any objection to the success of a gentleman and a soldier, provided he should be so fortunate as to engage my sister's affection. I answered, without hesitation, that my sister was old enough to judge for herself; and that I should be very far from disapproving any resolution she might take in his favour.——His eyes sparkled at this declaration. He declared, he should think himself the happiest man on earth to be connected with my family; and that he should never be weary of giving me proofs of his gratitude and attachment. I suppose Tabby and he are already agreed; in which case, we shall have a wedding at Brambleton-hall, and you shall give away the bride.——It is the least thing you can do by way of atonement for your former cruelty to that poor love sick maiden, who has been so long a thorn in the side of,

Yours,

Sept. 20.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

We have been at Buxton; but, as I did not much relish either the company or the accommodations, and had no occasion for the water, we staid but two nights in the place.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. at Oxon.

DEAR WATT,

ADVENTURES begin to thicken as we advance to the southward.—Lismahago has now professed himself the admirer of our aunt, and carries on his addresses under the sanction of her brother's approbation; so that we shall certainly have a wedding by Christmas. I should be glad you was present at the nuptials, to help me to throw the stocking, and perform other ceremonies peculiar to the occasion—I am sure it will be productive of some diversion; and truly, it would be worth your while to come a-croß the country on purpose to see two such original figures in bed together, with their laced night-caps; he, the emblem of good'cheer, and she, the picture of good-nature. All this agreeable prospect was clouded, and had well nigh vanished entirely, in consequence of a late misunderstanding between the future brothers-in-law, which, however, is now happily removed.

A few days ago my uncle and I, going to visit a relation, met with lord Oxmington at his house, who asked us to dine with him next day, and we accepted the invitation ————Accordingly, leaving our women under the care of Captain Lismahago, at the inn where we had lodged the preceeding night, in a little town about a mile from his Lordship's dwelling, we went at the hour appointed, and had a fashionable meal served up with much ostentation to a company of about a dozen persons, none of whom we had ever seen before.——His lordship is much more remarkable for his pride and caprice, than for his hospitality and understanding; and, indeed, it appeared, that he considered his guests merely as ob-
jects

jest to shine upon, so as to reflect the lustre of his own magnificence.—There was much state, but no courtesy; and a great deal of compliment without any conversation.—Before the desert was removed, our noble entertainer proposed three general toasts; then calling for a glass of wine, and bowing to all round, wished us a good afternoon. This was the signal for the company to break up, and they obeyed it immediately, all except our 'squire, who was greatly shocked at the manner of this dismissal.—He changed countenance, bit his lip in silence, but still kept his seat, so that his lordship found himself obliged to give us another hint, by saying, he should be glad to see us another time. “There is no time like the present time (cried Mr Bramble); your lordship has not yet drank a bumper to *the best in Christendom*.” “I'll drink no more bumpers to day (answered our landlord); and I am sorry to see you have drank too many—Order the gentleman's carriage to the gate.”—So saying, he rose and retired abruptly; our 'squire starting up at the same time, laying his hand upon his sword, and eying him with a most ferocious aspect. The master having vanished in this manner, our uncle bid one of the servants see what was to pay; and the fellow answering, “This is no inn,” “I cry you mercy” (cried the other) I perceive it is not; if it were, the landlord would be more civil.—There's a guinea, however; take it, and tell your lord, that I shall not leave the country till I have had an opportunity to thank him in person for his politeness and hospitality.”

We then walked down stairs through a double range of lacqueys, and getting into the chaise, proceeded homewards. Perceiving the 'squire much ruffled, I ventured to disapprove of his resentment, observing, that as lord Oxmington was

well known to have his brain very ill timbered, a sensible man ought rather laugh than be angry at his ridiculous want of breeding. Mr Bramble took umbrage at my presuming to be wiser than he upon this occasion; and told me, that as he had always thought for himself in every occurrence in life, he would still use the same privilege, with my good leave.

When we returned to our inn, he closeted Lismahago; and having explained his grievance, desired that gentleman to go and demand satisfaction of lord Oxmington in his name.——The lieutenant charged himself with this commission, and immediately set out a-horseback for his lordship's house, attended, at his own request, by my man Archy Macalpine, who had been used to military service; and truly, if Macalpine had been mounted upon an ass, this couple might have passed for the knight of La Mancha and his squire Panza. It was not till after some demur that Lismahago obtained a private audience, at which he formally desired his lordship to single combat, in the name of Mr Bramble, and desired him to appoint the time and place. Lord Oxmington was so confounded at this unexpected message, that he could not, for some time, make any articulate reply; but stood staring at the lieutenant with manifest marks of perturbation. At length, ringing a bell with great vehemence, he exclaimed, "What! a commoner send a challenge to a peer of the realm!——Privilege! privilege!——Here's a person brings me a challenge from the Welchman that dined at my table.——An impudent fellow!——My wine is not yet out of his head."

The whole house was immediately in commotion.——Macalpine made a soldierly retreat with the two horses; but the captain was suddenly surrounded and disarmed by the footmen, whom a French valet de

de chambre headed in this exploit; his sword was passed through a close-stool, and his person through the horse-pond.—In this plight he returned to the inn, half mad with his disgrace.—So violent was the rage of his indignation, that he mistook its object.—He wanted to quarrel with Mr Bramble; he said, he had been dishonoured upon his account, and he looked for reparation at his hands.—My uncle's back was up in a moment; and he desired him to explain his pretensions.—“Either compel lord Oxmington to give me satisfaction, (cried he) or give it me in your own person.”—“The latter part of the alternative is the most easy and expeditious (replied the squire, starting up); if you are disposed for a walk, I'll attend you this moment.”

Here they were interrupted by Mrs Tabby, who had overheard all that passed.—She now burst into the room, and running betwixt them, in great agitation, “is this your regard for me, (said she to the lieutenant, to seek the life of my brother.” Lismahago, who seemed to grow cool as my uncle grew hot, assured her he had a very great respect for Mr Bramble, but he had still more for his own honour, which had suffered pollution; but if that could be once purified, he should have no further cause of dissatisfaction.—The squire said, he should have thought it incumbent upon him to vindicate the lieutenant's honour; but as he had now carved for himself, he might swallow and digest it as well as he could.—In a word, what betwixt the mediation of Mrs Tabitha, the recollection of the captain, who had perceived he had gone too far, and the remonstrances of your humble servant, who joined them at this juncture, those two originals were perfectly reconciled; and then we proceeded to deliberate upon the means of taking vengeance for the insults they had received from the petulant peer; for—
till

till that aim should be accomplished, Mr Bramble swore with great emphasis, that he would not leave the inn where we now lodged, even if he should pass his Christmas on the spot.

In consequence of our deliberations. we next day, in the forenoon, proceeded in a body to his lordship's house, all of us, with our servants, including the coachmen, mounted a-horseback with our pistols loaded and ready primed.—Thus prepared for action, we paraded solemnly and slowly before his lordship's gate, which we passed three times in such a manner, that he could not but see us, and suspect the cause of our appearance.—After dinner we returned, and performed the same cavalcade, which was again repeated the morning following; but we had no occasion to persist in these manoeuvres.—About noon, we were visited by the gentleman, at whose house we had first seen lord Oxmington.—He now came to make apologies in the name of his lordship, who declared he had no intention to give offence to my uncle, in practising what had been always the custom of his house; and that as for the indignities which had been put upon the officer, they were offered without his lordship's knowledge, at the instigation of his valet de chambre.—“If that be the case, (said my uncle, in a peremptory tone) I shall be contented with lord Oxmington's personal excuses; and I hope my friend will be satisfied with his lordship's turning that insolent rascal out of his service.”—“Sir” (cried Lismahago) I must insist upon taking personal vengeance for the personal injuries I have sustained.”

After some debate, the affair was adjusted, in this manner. His lordship meeting us at our friend's house, declared he was sorry for what had happened; and that he had no intention to give umbrage.—The valet de chambre asked pardon of the lieutenant

tenant upon his knees, when Lismahago, to the astonishment of all present, gave him a violent kick in the face, which laid him on his back, exclaiming in a furious tone, "*Oui je te pardonne, gens foutre.*"

Such was the fortunate issue of this perilous adventure, which threatened abundance of vexation to our family; for the 'squire is one of those who will sacrifice both life and fortune, rather than leave what they conceive to be the least speck or blemish upon their honour and reputation. His lordship had no sooner pronounced his apology, with a very bad grace, than he went away in some disorder, and, I dare say, he will never invite another Welshman to his table.

We forthwith quitted the field of this achievement, in order to prosecute our journey; but we follow no determinate course——We make small deviations, to see the remarkable towns, villas, and curiosities on each side of our route; so that we advance by slow steps towards the borders of Monmouthshire: but in the midst of these irregular motions, there is no aberration nor eccentricity in that affection with which I am, dear Wat,

Yours always,

September 28.

J. MELFORD.

To Dr LEWIS.

DEAR DICK,

AT what time of life may a man think himself exempted from the necessity of sacrificing his repose to the punctilios of a contemptible world? I have been engaged in a ridiculous adventure, which I shall recount at meeting; and this, I hope, will not

not be much longer delayed, as we have now performed almost all our visits, and seen every thing that I think has any right to retard us in our journey homewards——A few days ago, understanding by accident, that my old friend Baynard was in the country, I would not pass so near his habitation without paying him a visit, though our correspondence had been interrupted for a long course of years.

I felt myself sensibly affected by the ideas of our past intimacy, as we approached the place where we had spent so many happy days together; but when we arrived at the house, I could not recognize any one of those objects which had been so deeply impressed upon my remembrance——The tall oaks that shaded the avenue, had been cut down, and the iron gates at the end of it removed, together with the high wall that surrounded the court yard. The house itself which was formerly a convent of Cistercian monks, had a venerable appearance; and along the front that looked into the garden, was a stone gallery, which afforded me many an agreeable walk, when I was disposed to be contemplative——Now the old front is covered with a screen of modern architecture; so that all without is Grecian, and all within Gothic——As for the garden, which was well stocked with the best fruit which England could produce, there is not now the least vestige remaining of trees, walls, or hedges——Nothing appears but a naked circus of loose sand, with a dry basin and a leaden Triton in the middle.

You must know, that Baynard, at his father's death, had a clear estate of fifteen hundred pounds a-year, and was in other respects extremely well qualified to make a respectable figure in the commonwealth; but, what with some excesses of youth, and the expence of a contested election, he,
in

in a few years, found himself encumbered with a debt of ten thousand pounds, which he resolved to discharge by means of a prudent marriage—— He accordingly married a Miss Thomson, whose fortune amounted to double the sum that he owed—— She was the daughter of a citizen, who had failed in trade; but her fortune came by an uncle, who died in the East Indies—— Her own parents being dead, she lived with a maiden-aunt, who had superintended her education; and, in all appearance, was well enough qualified for the usual purposes of the married state—— Her virtues, however, stood rather upon a negative, than a positive foundation—— She was neither proud, insolent, nor capricious, nor given to scandal, nor addicted to gaming nor inclined to gallantry—— She could read, and write, and dance and sing, and play upon the harpsicord, and smatter French; and take a hand at whist and ombre; but even these accomplishments she possessed by halves—— She excelled in nothing. Her conversation was flat, her stile mean, and her expression embarrassed—— In a word, her character was totally insipid. Her person was not disagreeable; but there was nothing graceful in her address, nor engaging in her manners; and she was so ill qualified to do the honours of the house that when she sat at the head of the table, one was always looking for the mistress of the family in some other place.

Baynard had flattered himself that it would be no difficult matter to mould such a subject after his own fashion, and that she would cheerfully enter into his views, which were wholly turned to domestic happiness. He proposed to reside always in the country, of which he was fond to a degree of enthusiasm, to cultivate his estate, which was very improveable; to enjoy the exercise of rural diversions; to maintain an intimacy of correspondence with

with some friends that were settled in his neighbourhood; to keep a comfortable house, without suffering his expence to exceed the limits of his income; and to find pleasure and employments for his wife in the management and avocation, of her own family.——

This, however, was a visionary scheme, which he never was able to realize.——His wife was as ignorant as a new born babe of every thing that related to the conduct of a family; and she had no idea of a country life.—Her understanding did not reach so far as to comprehend the first principle of discretion: and, indeed, if her capacity had been better than it was, her natural indolence would not have permitted her to abandon a certain routine, to which she had been habituated. She had not tasted enough to relish any rational enjoyment; but her ruling passion was vanity, not that species which arises from self conceit of superior accomplishments, but that which is of a bastard and idiot nature, excited by shew and ostentation, which implies not even the least consciousness of any personal merit.

The nuptial peal of noise and nonsense being run out in all the usual changes, Mr Baynard thought it high time to make her acquainted with the particulars of the plan which he had projected——He told her that his fortune, though sufficient to afford all the comforts of life, was not ample enough to command all the superfluities of pomp and pageantry, which indeed, were equally absurd and intolerable——He, therefore, hoped she would have no objection to their leaving London in the spring, when he should take the opportunity to dismiss some unnecessary domestics, whom he had hired for the occasion of their marriage——She heard him in silence, and after some pause, “So” (said she) “I am to be buried in the country!” He was so confounded at this reply, that he could not

not speak for some minutes: at length he told her he was much mortified to find he had proposed any thing that was disagreeable to her idea——

"I am sure (added he) I meant nothing more than
"to lay down a comfortable plan of living within
"the bounds of our fortune, which is but moderate."
"Sir, (said she) you are the best judge
"of your own affairs——My fortune, I
"know, does not exceed twenty thousand pounds
"——Yet, even with that pittance, I might have
"had a husband who would not have begrudged me
"a house in London——" "Good God! my
"dear, (cried poor Baynard in the utmost agitation)
"you don't think me so fordid——I only hinted
"what I thought——But, I don't pretend to impose——"
"Yes, Sir, (resumed the Lady) it is your prerogative to command, and my duty
"to obey——"

So saying, she burst into tears, and retired to her chamber, where she was joined by her aunt——
He endeavoured to recollect himself, and act with vigour of mind on this occasion; but was betrayed by the tenderness of his nature, which was the greatest defect of his constitution. He found the aunt in tears, and the niece in a fit, which held her the best part of eight hours, at the expiration of which, she began to talk incoherently about *death* and her *dear husband*, who had sat by her all this time, and pressed her hand to his lip, in a transport of grief and penitence for the offence he had given——From thence forward, he carefully avoided mentioning the country; and they continued to be sucked deeper and deeper into the vortex of extravagance and dissipation, leading what is called a fashionable life in town——About the latter end of July, however, Mrs Baynard, in order to exhibit a proof of conjugal obedience,

desired, of her own accord, that they might pay a visit to his country-house, as there was no company left in London. He would have excused himself from this excursion, which was no part of the æconomical plan he had proposed; but she insisted upon making this sacrifice to his taste and prejudices, and away they went with such an equipage as astonished the whole country.—All that remained of the season was engrossed by receiving and returning visits in the neighbourhood; and, in this intercourse it was discovered that Sir John Chickwell had a house steward and one footman in livery more than the complement of Mr Baynard's household. This remark was made by the aunt at table, and assented to by the husband, who observed that Sir John Chickwell might very well afford to keep more servants than were found in the family of a man who had not half his fortune. Mrs Baynard eat no supper that evening; but was seized with a violent fit, which completed her triumph over the spirit of her consort. The two supernumerary servants were added.—The family plate was sold for old silver, and a new service procured; fashionable furniture was provided, and the whole house turned topsy turvy.

At their return to London, in the beginning of winter, he, with a heavy heart, communicated these particulars to me in confidence. Before his marriage, he had introduced me to the lady as his particular friend; and I now offered, in that character, to lay before her the necessity of reforming her æconomy, if she had any regard to the interest of her own family, or complaisance for the inclinations of her husband.—But Baynard declined my offer, on the supposition that his wife's nerves were too delicate to bear expostulation; and that it would only serve to overwhelm her with such distress as would make himself miserable.

Baynard

Baynard is a man of spirit, and had she proved a termagant, he would have known how to deal with her; but, either by accident or instinct, she fastened upon the weak side of his soul, and held it so fast, that he has been in subjection ever since—I afterwards advised him to carry her abroad to France or Italy, where he might gratify her vanity for half the expence it cost him in England; and this advice he followed accordingly—She was agreeably flattered with the idea of seeing and knowing foreign parts, and foreign fashions; of being presented to sovereigns, and living familiarly with princes. She forthwith seized the hint which I had thrown out on purpose, and even pressed Mr Baynard to hasten his departure; so that in a few weeks they crossed the sea to France, with a moderate train, still including the aunt; who was her bosom countellor, and abetted her in all her opposition to her husband's will——Since that period, I have had little or no opportunity to renew our former correspondence——All that I knew of his transactions, amounted to no more than that after an absence of two years, they returned so little improved in œconomy, that they launched out into new oceans of extravagance, which, at length obliged him to mortgage his estate——By this time she had bore him three children, of which the last only survives, a puny boy of twelve or thirteen, who will be ruined in his education by the indulgence of his mother.

As for Baynard, neither his own good sense, nor the dread of indigence, nor consideration of his children, has been of force sufficient to stimulate him into the resolution of breaking at once the shameful spell by which he seems enchanted——With a taste capable of the most refined enjoyment, a heart glowing with all the warmth of friendship and humanity, and a dispo-

sition strongly turned to the more rational pleasures of a retired and country life, he is hurried about in a perpetual tumult, amidst a mob of beings pleased with rattles, baubles, and gew-gaws so void of sense and distinction, that even the most acute philosophy would find it a very hard task to discover for what wise purpose of providence they were created—Friendship is not to be found; nor can the amusements for which he sighs be enjoyed within the rotation of absurdity, to which he is doomed for life. He has long resigned all views of improving his fortune by management and attention to the exercise of husbandry, in which he delighted; and as to domestic happiness, not the least glimpse of hope remains to amuse his imagination. Thus blasted in all his prospects, he could not fail to be overwhelmed with melancholy and chagrin, which have preyed upon his health and spirits in such a manner, that he is now threatened with a consumption.

I have given you a sketch of the man, whom the other day I went to visit.——At the gate we found a great number of powdered lacquies, but no civility—After we had sat a considerable time in the coach, we were told, that Mr Baynard had rode out, and that his lady was dressing; but we were introduced to a parlour, so very fine and delicate, that in all appearance it was designed to be seen only, not inhabited. The chairs and couches were carved, gilt, and covered with rich damask, so smooth and sleek, that they looked as if they had never been sat upon. There was no carpet on the floor; but the boards were rubbed and waxed in such a manner, that we could not walk, but were obliged to slide along them; and as for the stove, it was too bright and polished to be polluted with sea-coal, or stand by the smoke of any gross material fire.——When we had remained
above

above half an hour sacrificing to the inhospitable powers in this *temple of cold reception*, my friend Baynard arrived, and understanding we were in the house, made his appearance, so meagre, yellow, and dejected, that I really should not have known him, had I met with him in any other place——Running up to me with great eagerness, he strained me in his embrace, and his heart was so full, that for some minutes he could not speak——Having saluted us all round, he perceived our uncomfortable situation, and conducting us into another apartment, which had fire in the chimney, called for chocolate—Then, withdrawing, he returned with a compliment from his wife, and, in the mean time, presented his son Harry, a shambling, blear-eyed boy, in the habit of a hussar; very rude, forward, and impertinent——His father would have sent him to a boarding-school, but his mamma and aunt would not hear of his lying out of the house; so that there was a clergyman engaged as his tutor in the family.

As it was but just turned of twelve, and the whole house was in commotion to prepare a formal entertainment, I foresaw it would be late before we dined, and proposed a walk to Mr Baynard, that we might converse together freely. In the course of this perambulation, when I expressed some surprise that he had returned so soon from Italy, he gave me to understand, that his going abroad had not at all answered the purpose for which he left England; that although the expence of living was not so great in Italy as at home, respect being had to the same rank of life in both countries, it had been found necessary for him to lift himself above his usual stile, that he might be on some footing with the counts, marquises, and cavaliers, with whom he kept company——He was obliged to hire a great number of servants, to take off a great

Variety of rich clothes, and to keep a sumptuous table for the fashionable *lorocconi* of the country; who, without a consideration of this kind, would not have paid any attention to an untitled foreigner, let his family or fortune be ever so respectable——— Besides, Mrs Baynard was continually surrounded by a train of expensive loungers, under the denominations of language-masters, musicians, painters, and *ciceroni*; and had actually fallen into the disease of buying pictures and antiques upon her own judgment, which was far from being infallible——— At length she met with an affront which gave her a disgust to Italy, and drove her back to England with some precipitation. By means of frequenting the *dutchess* of B———'s *conversazione*, while her grace was at Rome, Mrs Baynard became acquainted with all the fashionable people of that city, and was admitted to their assemblies without scruple——— Thus favoured she conceived too great an idea of her own importance, and when the *dutchess* left Rome, resolved to have a *conversazione* that should leave the Romans no room to regret her grace's departure. She provided hands for a musical entertainment, and sent *bighetti* of invitation to every person of distinction; but not one Roman of the female sex appeared at her assembly——— She was that night seized with a violent fit, and kept her bed three days, at the expiration of which she declared that the air of Italy would be the ruin of her constitution. In order to prevent this catastrophe, she was speedily removed to Geneva, from whence they returned to England by the way of Lyons and Paris. By the time they arrived at Calais, she had purchased such a quantity of silks, stuffs, and laces, that it was necessary to hire a vessel to smuggle them over, and this vessel was taken by a custom-house cutter; so that

that they lost the whole cargo, which had cost them above eight hundred pounds.

It now appeared, that her travels had produced no effect upon her, but that of making her more expensive and fantastic than ever:——— She affected to lead the fashion; not only in point of female dress, but in every article of taste and connoisseurship. She made a drawing of the new facade to the house in the country; she pulled up the trees, and pulled down the walls of the garden, so as to let in the easterly wind which Mr Baynard's ancestors had been at great pains to exclude. To shew her taste in laying out ground, she seized into her own hand a farm of two hundred acres, about a mile from the house, which she parcelled out into walks and shrubberies, having a great basin in the middle, into which she poured a whole stream that turned two mills, and afforded the best trout in the country. The bottom of the basin, however, was so ill secured, that it would not hold the water, which strained through the earth, and made a bog of the whole plantation: in a word the ground, which formerly paid him one hundred and fifty pounds a year, now cost him two hundred pounds a-year to keep it in tolerable order, and above the first expence of trees shrubs, flowers, turf, and gravel. There was not an inch of garden ground left about the house, nor a tree, that produced fruit of any kind; nor did he raise a truss of hay, or bushel of oats for his horses, nor had he a single cow to afford milk for his tea; far less did he ever dream of feeding his own mutton, pigs, and, poultry: every article of house-keeping even the most inconsiderable, was brought from the next market-town, at the distance of five miles, and thither they sent a courier every morning to fetch hot rolls for breakfast. In short, Baynard fairly owned that he spent double his

his income, and that in a few years he should be obliged to sell his estate for the payment of his creditors. He said his wife had such delicate nerves, and such imbecility of spirit, that she could neither bear remonstrance, be it ever so gentle, nor practise any scheme of retrenchment, even if she perceived the necessity of such a measure. He had, therefore, ceased struggling against the stream, and endeavoured to reconcile himself to ruin, by reflecting that his child, at least, would inherit his mother's fortune, which was secured to him by the contract of marriage.

The detail which he gave me of his affairs, filled me at once with grief and indignation. I inveighed bitterly against the indiscretion of his wife, and reproached him for his unmanly acquiescence under the absurd tyranny which she exerted. I exhorted him to recollect his resolution, and make one effectual effort to disengage himself from a thralldom, equally shameful and pernicious. I offered him all the assistance in my power. I undertook to regulate his affairs, and even to bring about a reformation in his family, if he would only authorize me to execute the plan I should form for his advantage. I was so affected by the subject, that I could not help mingling tears with my remonstrances, and Baynard was so penetrated with these marks of my affection, that he lost all power of utterance. He pressed me to his breast with great emotion, and wept in silence. At length he exclaimed, "Friendship is undoubted-ly the most precious balm of life! Your words, dear Bramble, have in a great measure recalled me from an abyss of despondence, in which I have been long overwhelmed———I will, upon honour, make you acquainted with a distinct state of my affairs, and, as far as I am able to go, will follow the course you prescribe. But there

" are

“are certain lengths which my nature—The truth is
“there are tender-connections, of which a bachelor
“has no idea—Shall I own my weakness? I cannot
“bear the thoughts of making that woman un-
“easy—” “And yet, (cried I) she has seen you un-
“happy for a series of years—unhappy from her
“misconduct, without ever shewing the least inclina-
“tion to alleviate your distress—” “Nevertheless
“ (said he) I am persuaded she loves me with the most
“warm affection; but these are incongruities in the
“composition of the human mind which I hold to be
“inexplicable.”

I was shocked at his infatuation, and changed the subject, after we had agreed to maintain a close correspondence for the future—He then gave me to understand, that he had two neighbours, who, like himself, were driven by their wives at full speed in the high road to bankruptcy and ruin. All the three husbands were of dispositions very different from each other, and, according to this variation, their consorts were admirably suited to the purpose of keeping them all three in subjection. The views of the ladies were exactly the same. They vied in grandeur, that is, in ostentation, with the wife of Sir Charles Chickwell, who had four times their fortune; and she again piqued herself upon making an equal figure with a neighbouring peeress, whose revenue trebled her own. Here then was the fable of the frog and the ox, realized in four different instances within the same county: one large fortune, and three moderate estates, in a fair way of being burst by the inflation of female vanity; and in three of these instances, three different forms of female tyranny were exercised. Mr Baynard was subjugated by practising upon the tenderness of his nature. Mr Milkstan, being of a timorous disposition, truckled
to

to the insolence of a termagant. Mr Sowerby, who was of a temper neither to be moved by fits, nor driven by menaces, had the fortune to be fitted with a helpmate, who assailed him with the weapons of irony and satire; sometimes sneering in the way of compliment; sometimes throwing out sarcastic comparisons, implying reproaches upon his want of taste, spirit, and generosity: by which means she stimulated his passions from one act of extravagance to another, just as the circumstances of her vanity required.

All these three ladies have at this time the same number of horses, carriages, and servants in and out of livery; the same variety of dress; the same quantity of plate and china, the like ornaments in furniture; and in their entertainments they endeavour to exceed one another in the variety, delicacy and expence of their dishes. I believe it will be found upon enquiry, that nineteen out of twenty, who are ruined by extravagance, fall a sacrifice to the ridiculous pride and vanity of silly women, whose parts are held in contempt by the very men whom they pillage and enslave. Thank Heaven, Dick, that among all the follies and weaknesses of human nature, I have not yet fallen into that of matrimony.

After Baynard and I had discussed all these matters at leisure we returned towards the house and met Jerry with our two women, who had come forth to take the air, as the lady of the mansion had not yet made her appearance. In short, Mrs Baynard did not produce herself, till about a quarter of an hour before dinner was upon the table. Then her husband brought her into the parlour, accompanied by her aunt and son, and she received us with a coldness of reserve sufficient to freeze the very soul of hospitality. Though she knew I had been the intimate friend of her husband, and had

had often seen me with him in London, she shewed no marks of recognition or regard, when I addressed myself to her in the most friendly terms of salutation. She did not express the common compliment of, *I am glad to see you* ; or, *I hope you have enjoyed your health since we had the pleasure of seeing you* ; or some such words of course : nor did she once open her mouth in the way of welcome to my sister and my niece ; but sat in silence like a statue, with an aspect of insensibility. Her aunt, the model upon which she had been formed, was indeed the very essence of insipid formality ; but the boy was very pert and impudent, and prated without ceasing.

At dinner, the lady maintained the same ungracious indifference, never speaking but in whispers to her aunt ; and as to the repast, it was made up of a parcel of kickshaws, contrived by a French cook, without one substantial article adapted to the satisfaction of an English appetite. The pottage was little better than bread soaked in dish washings, lukewarm. The ragouts looked as if they had been once eaten and half digested : the fricassees were involved in a nasty yellow poultice ; and the rotis were scorched and stinking, for the honour of the fumet. The desert consisted of faded fruit and iced froth, a good emblem of our landlady's character ; the table beer was sour, the water foul, and the wine vapid ; but there was a parade of plate and china, and a powdered lacquey stood behind every chair, except those of the master and mistress of the house, who were served by two valets dressed like gentlemen. We dined in a large old Gothic parlour, which was formerly the hall. It was now paved with marble, and notwithstanding the fire which had been kindled about an hour struck me with such a chill sensation, that, when I entered it, the teeth chattered in my

my jaws.—In short, every thing was cold, comfortless, and disgusting, except the looks of my friend Baynard, which declared the warmth of his affection and humanity.

After dinner we withdrew into another apartment, where the boy began to be impertinently troublesome to my niece Liddy. He wanted a play-fellow, forsooth ; and would have romped with her, had she encouraged his advances——— He was even so impudent as to snatch a kiss, at which she changed countenance, and seemed uneasy ; and though his father checked him for the rudeness of his behaviour, he became so outrageous as to thrust his hand into her bosom : an insult to which she did not tamely submit, though one of the mildest creatures upon earth. Her eyes sparkled with resentment, she started up, and lent him such a box in the ear, as sent him staggering to the other side of the room.

“ Miss Melford (cried his father) you have treated him with the utmost propriety———
“ I am only sorry that the impertinence of any
“ child of mine should have occasioned this exertion of your spirit which I cannot but applaud
“ and admire.” His wife was so far from assenting to the candour of his apology, that she rose from table, and taking her son by the hand, “ Come, child, (said she) your father cannot abide you.” So saying, she retired with this hopeful youth, and was followed by her governante ; but neither the one nor the other, deigned to take the least notice of the company.

Baynard was exceedingly disconcerted ; but I perceived his uneasiness was tinged with resentment, and derived a good omen from this discovery. I ordered the horses to be put to the carriage, and though he made some efforts to detain us all night, I insisted upon leaving the house immediately ;

mediately; but, before I went away, I took an opportunity of speaking to him again in private.—I said every thing I could recollect, to animate his endeavours in shaking of those shameful trammels. I made no scruple to declare, that his wife was unworthy of that tender complaisance which he had shewn for her foibles: that she was dead to all the genuine sentiments of conjugal affection; insensible of her own honour and interest, and seemingly destitute of common sense and reflection. I conjured him to remember what he owed to his father's house, to his own reputation, and to his family, including even this unreasonable woman herself, who was driving on blindly to her own destruction. I advised him to form a plan for retrenching superfluous expence, and try to convince the aunt of the necessity of such a reformation, that she might gradually prepare her niece for its execution; and I exhorted him to turn that disagreeable piece of formality out of the house, if he should find her averse to his proposal.

Here he interrupted me with a sigh, observing that such a step would undoubtedly be fatal to Mrs Baynard.—“I shall lose all patience” (cried I) to hear you talk so weakly.—Mrs Baynard’s fits will never hurt her constitution. I believe in my conscience they are all affected: I am sure she has no feeling for your distresses; and when you are ruined, she will appear to have no feeling for her own.” Finally, I took his word and honour, that he would make an effort, such as I had advised; that he would form a plan of œconomy, and, if he found it impracticable without my assistance, he would come to Bath in the winter, where I promised to give him the meeting, and contribute all in my power to the retrieval of his affairs.—With this mutual engagement we parted; and I shall think myself supremely happy,

if by my means, a worthy man, whom I love and esteem, can be saved from misery, disgrace, and despair.

I have only one friend more to visit in this part of the country, but he is of a complexion very different from that of Baynard. You have heard me mention Sir Thomas Bulford, whom I knew in Italy. He is now become a country gentleman; but, being disabled by the gout from enjoying any amusement abroad, he entertains himself within doors, by keeping open house for all comers, and playing upon the oddities and humours of his company: but he himself is generally the greatest original at his table. He is very good humoured, talks much, and laughs without ceasing. I am told that all the use he makes of his understanding at present, is to excite mirth, by exhibiting his guests in ludicrous attitudes. I know not how far we may furnish him with entertainment of this kind, but I am resolved to beat up his quarters, partly with a view to laugh at the knight himself, and partly to pay my respects to his lady, a good natured sensible woman, with whom he lives upon very easy terms, although she has not had the good fortune to bring him an heir to his estate.

And now, Dear Dick, I must tell you for your comfort, that you are the only man upon earth to whom I would presume to send such a long winded epistle, which I could not find in my heart to curtail, because the subject interested the warmest passions of my heart; neither would I make any other apology to a correspondent who has been so long accustomed to the impertinence of

Sept. 30.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. at Oxon.

DEAR KNIGHT,

I BELIEVE there is something mischievous in my disposition, for nothing diverts me so much as to see certain characters tormented with false terrors

——— We last night lodged at the house of Sir Thomas Bulford, an old friend of my uncle, a jolly fellow, of moderate intellects, who, in spite of the gout, which hath lamed him, is resolved to be merry to the last; and mirth he has a particular knack in extracting from his guests, let their humour be never so caustic or refractory———

Besides our company, there was in the house a fat-headed Justice of the peace, called Frogmore, and a country practitioner in surgery, who seemed to be our landlord's chief companion and confident——We found the knight sitting on a couch with his crutches by his side, and his feet supported on cushions: but he received us with a hearty welcome, and seemed greatly rejoiced at our arrival.———

After tea, we were entertained with a sonata on the harpsichord by Lady Bulford, who sung and played to admiration; but Sir Thomas seemed to be a little asinine in the article of ears, though he affected to be in raptures; and begged his wife to favour us with an *arietta*, of her own composing.———

This *arietta*, however, she no sooner began to perform, than he and the Justice fell asleep; but the moment she ceased playing, the knight waked snoring, and explained, "*O cara!*" "what d'ye think, gentlemen? Will you talk any more of your Pargolesi and your Corelli?"

——— At the same time, he thrust his tongue in one cheek, and leered with one eye at the doctor and me, who sat on his left hand———He concluded

the pantomime with a loud laugh, which he could command at all times extempore——Notwithstanding his disorder, he did not do penance at supper, nor did he ever refuse his glass when the toast went round, but rather encouraged a quick circulation both by precept and example.

I soon perceived the doctor had made himself very necessary to the baronet——He was the whetstone of his wit, the butt of his satire, and his operator in certain experiments of humour, which were occasionally tried upon strangers:——Justice Frogmore was an excellent subject for this species of philosophy; sleek and corpulent, solemn and shallow, he had studied Burn with uncommon application; but he studied nothing so much as the art of living (that is, eating) well.——This fat buck has often afforded good sport to our landlord; and he was frequently started with tolerable success in the course of this evening; but the baronet's appetite for ridicule seemed to be chiefly excited by the appearance, address, and conversation of Lismahago, whom he attempted in all the different modes of exposition; but he put me in mind of a contest that I once saw betwixt a young hound and an old hedge hog——The dog turned him over and over, and bounced, and barked, and mumbled; but as often as he attempted to bite, he felt a prickle in his jaws, and recoiled in manifest confusion:——The Captain, when left to himself, will not fail to turn his ludicrous side to the company, but if any man attempts to force him into that attitude, he becomes stubborn as a mule, and unmanageable as an elephant unbroke.

Divers tolerable jokes were cracked upon the Justice, who eat a most unconscionable supper, and, among other things, a large plate of broiled mushrooms, which he had no sooner swallowed, than the doctor observed, with great gravity, that they
were

were of the kind called *champignons*, which, in some constitutions, had a poisonous effect——Mr Frogmore, startled at this remark, asked, in some confusion, why he had not been so kind as to give him that notice sooner.——He answered, that he took it for granted, by his eating them so heartily, that he was used to the dish; but as he seemed to be under some apprehension, he prescribed a bumper of plague-water, which the justice drank off immediately, and retired to rest, not without marks of terror and disquiet.

At midnight we were shewn to our different chambers, and in half an hour, I was fast asleep in bed; but about three o'clock in the morning I was waked with a dismal cry of *Fire!* and starting up, ran to the window in my shirt——The night was dark and stormy; and a number of people half-dressed, ran backwards and forwards through the court-yard, with links and lanthorns, seemingly in the utmost hurry and trepidation.——Slipping on my clothes in a twinkling, I ran down stairs, and, upon enquiry, found the fire was confined to a back-stair, which led to a detached apartment where Lismahago lay.——By this time, the lieutenant was alarmed by a bawling at his window, which was in the second story, but he could not find his clothes in the dark, and his room door was locked on the outside——The servants called to him, that the house had been robbed; that, without all doubt, the villains had taken away his clothes, fastened the door, and set the house on fire, for the stair-case was in flames.——In this dilemma, the poor lieutenant ran about the room naked like a squirrel in a cage, popping out his head at the window between whiles, and imploring assistance.——At length, the knight in person was brought out in his chair, attended by my uncle and all the family, including our aunt Tabitha, who scream-

ed, and cried, and tore her hair, as if she had been distracted.——Sir Thomas had already ordered his people to bring a long ladder, which was applied to the captain's window, and now he exhorted him earnestly to descend.——There was no need of much rhetoric to persuade Lismahago, who forthwith made his exit by the window, roaring all the time to the people below to hold fast the ladder.

Notwithstanding the gravity of the occasion, it was impossible to behold this scene without being seized with an inclination to laugh. The rueful aspect of the lieutenant in his shirt, with a quilted night-cap fastened under his chin, and his long lank limbs and posteriors exposed to the wind, made a very picturesque appearance, when illuminated by the links and torches which the servants held up to light him in his descent.——All the company stood round the ladder, except the knight, who sat in his chair, exclaiming from time to time, “Lord have mercy upon us!——“save the gentleman's life!——mind your footing, “dear captain!——softly!——stand fast!——clasp “the ladder with both hands (——there!——well done, “my dear boy!——O bravo!——an old soldier for “ever!——bring a blanket——bring a warm blanket to comfort his poor carcase——warm the bed “in the green room——give me your hand, dear “captain——I'm rejoiced to see thee safe and sound “with all my heart.” Lismahago was received at the foot of the ladder by his innamorata, who snatching a blanket from one of the maids, wrapped it about his body; two men-servants took him under their arms, and a female conducted him to the green room, still accompanied by Mrs Tabitha, who saw him fairly put to bed.——During this whole transaction, he spoke not a syllable, but looked exceeding grim, sometimes at one, and sometimes at another

another of the spectators, who now adjourned in a body to the parlour where we had supped, every one surveying another with marks of astonishment and curiosity.

The knight being seated in an easy chair, seized my uncle by the hand, and bursting into a long and loud laugh, "Matt, (cried he) crown me with oak, or ivy, or laurel, or parsley, or what you will, and acknowledge this to be a *coup de maitre* in the way of waggery—ha, ha, ha!—Such a *camiscata, scagliata, beffata*! O, *che roba*!—O, what a subject!—O, what *caricatura*!—O, for a Rosa, a Rembrandt, a Schalken!—Zooks, I'll give a hundred guineas to have it painted—what a fine descent from the cross, or ascent to the gallows!—what lights and shadows!—what a groupe below!—what expression above!—what an aspect!—did you mind the aspect? ha, ha ha!—and the limbs, and the muscles—every toe denoted terror!—ha, ha, ha!—then the blanket!—O, what *costume*! St Andrew! St Lazarus! St Barabbas!—ha, ha, ha!" "After all then (cried Mr Bramble very gravely) this was no more than a false alarm.—We have been frightened out of our beds, and almost out of our senses, for the joke's sake." "Ay, and such a joke! (cried our landlord) such a farce! such a *dénouement*! such a *catastrophe*!"

"Have a little patience (replied our 'squire) we are not yet come to the *catastrophe*; and pray God it may not turn out a tragedy instead of a farce.—The captain is one of those saturnine subjects, who have no idea of humour.—He never laughs in his own person; nor can he bear that other people should laugh at his expense.—Besides, if the subject had been properly chosen, the joke was too severe in all
"conscience."

"conscience." "Sdeath! (cried the knight) I could not have bated him an ace had he been my own father; and as for the subject, such another does not present itself once in half a century." Here Mrs Tabitha interposing, and bridling up, declared, she did not see that Mr Lismahago was a fitter subject for ridicule than the knight himself; and that she was very much afraid, he would very soon find he had mistaken his man——The baronet was a good deal disconcerted by this intimation, saying, that he must be a Goth and a barbarian, if he did not enter into the spirit of such a happy and humorous contrivance.——He begged, however, that Mr Bramble and his sister would bring him to reason; and this request was reinforced by lady Bulford, who did not fail to read the baronet a lecture upon his indiscretion, which lecture he received with submission on one side of his face, and a leer upon the other.

We now went to bed for the second time; and before I got up, my uncle had visited Lismahago in the green room, and used such arguments with him, that when we met in the parlour he seemed to be quite appeased.——He received the knight's apology with a good grace, and even professed himself pleased at finding he had contributed to the diversion of the company.——Sir Thomas took him by the hand, laughing heartily; and then desired a pinch of snuff, in token of perfect reconciliation.——The lieutenant, putting his hand in his waistcoat-pocket, pulled out, instead of his own Scots mull, a very fine gold snuff-box, which he no sooner perceived than he said, "Here is a small mistake." "No mistake at all (cried the baronet): a fair exchange is no robbery.——Oblige me so far, captain, as to let me keep your mull as a memorial." "Sir, (said the lieutenant) the
"mull

“ mull is much at your service ; but this machine I
“ can by no means retain.—It looks like compound-
“ ing a sort of felony in the code of honour.—Be-
“ sides, I don’t know but there may be another joke
“ in this conveyance ; and I don’t find myself disposed
“ to be brought upon the stage again.—I won’t pre-
“ sume to make free with your pockets, but I beg you
“ will put it up again with your own hand ”—So say-
ing, with a certain austerity of aspect, he presented
the snuff box to the knight, who received it in some
confusion, and restored the mull, which he would
by no means keep, except on the terms of ex-
change.

This transaction was like to give a grave cast to the
conversation, when my uncle took notice that Mr
Justice Frogmore had not made his appearance either
at the night-alarm, or now at the general rendezvous.
The baronet hearing Frogmore mentioned, “ Odso !
“ (cried he) I had forgot the Justice.—Prythee, doc-
“ tor, go and bring him out of his kennel.”—Then
laughing till his sides were well shaken, he said he
would shew the captain, that he was not the only
person of the drama exhibited for the entertainment
of the company. As to the night scene, it could not
affect the Justice, who had been purposely lodged in
the farther end of the house, remote from the noise,
and lulled with a dose of opium into the bargain.
In a few minutes, Mr Justice was led into the par-
lour in his night-cap, and loose morning gown, rol-
ling his head from side to side, and groaning piteously
all the way.—“ Jesu ! neighbour Frog-
“ more, (exclaimed the baronet) what is the mat-
“ ter ? ————you look as if you was not a man for
“ this world.—Set him down softly on the couch
“ ————poor gentleman !——Lord have mercy upon
“ us !———What makes him so pale, and yellow,
“ and bloated ?” “ Oh, Sir Thomas ! (cried the
“ Justice)

“Justice) I doubt it is all over with me——Those
 “mushrooms I eat at your table have done my
 “business——ah! oh! hey!” “Now the Lord
 “forbid! (said the other)——what! man, have a
 “good heart.——How does thy stomach feel!——
 “hah!”

To this interrogation he made no reply, but
 throwing aside his night gown, discovered that his
 waistcoat would not meet upon his belly by five
 good inches at least. “Heaven protect us all
 “(cried Sir Thomas)—What a melancholy spectacle!
 “——never did I see a man so suddenly swelled, but
 “when he was either just dead, or just dying—Dec-
 “tor, canst thou do nothing for this poor object?”
 “I don’t think the case is quite desperate, (said the
 “surgeon) but I would advise Mr Frogmore to
 “settle his affairs with all expedition; the parson
 “may come and pray by him, while I prepare a
 “clyster and an emetic draught.” The Justice,
 “rolling his languid eyes, ejaculated with great
 “fervency, “Lord have mercy upon us! Christ
 “have mercy upon us;”——Then he begged
 “the surgeon, in the name of God, to dispatch——
 “As for my worldly affairs, (said he) they are all
 “settled but one mortgage, which must be left to
 “my heirs—but my poor soul! my poor soul! what
 “will become of my poor soul!——miserable sinner
 “that I am!” “Nay pr’ythee, my dear boy, com-
 “pose thyself (resumed the knight); consider the
 “mercy of Heaven is infinite; thou canst not
 “have any sins of a very deep dye on thy con-
 “science, or the devil’s in’t.” “Name not the
 “devil (exclaimed the terrified Frogmore,) I have
 “more sins to answer for than the world dreams
 “of——Ah! friend, I have been fly—fly—damned
 “fly?——Send for the parson without loss of time,
 “and put me to bed, for I am posting to eternity?”

—He

—He was accordingly raised from the couch, and supported by two servants, who led him back to his room; but before he quitted the parlour, he intreated the good company to assist him with their prayers.—He added, “Take warning by me, who “am suddenly cut off in my prime, like a flower “of the field; and God forgive you, Sir Thomas, “for suffering such poisonous trash to be eaten at your “table.”

He was no sooner removed out of hearing, than the baronet abandoned himself to a violent fit of laughing, in which he was joined by the greatest part of the company; but we could hardly prevent the good lady from going to undeceive the patient, by discovering, that, while he slept, his waistcoat had been straitened by the contrivance of the surgeon; and that the disorder in his stomach and bowels was occasioned by some antimonial wine, which he had taken over night, under the denomination of plague-water,—She seemed to think that his apprehension might put an end to his life: The knight swore he was no such chicken, but a tough old rogue, that would live long enough to plague all his neighbours——Upon enquiry, we found his character did not entitle him to much compassion or respect, and therefore we let our landlord's humour take its course——A clyster was actually administered by an old woman of the family, who had been Sir Thomas's nurse, and the patient took a draught made with oxymel of squills to forward the operation of the antimonial wine, which had been retarded by the opiate of the preceding night. He was visited by the vicar, who read prayers, and began to take an account of the state of his soul, when those medicines produced their effect; so that the parson was obliged to hold his nose while he poured forth spiritual consolation from his mouth. The same expedient was used
by

by the knight and me, who, with the doctor, entered the chamber at this juncture, and found Frogmore enthroned on an easing-chair, under the pressure of a double evacuation. The short intervals betwixt every heave he employed in crying for mercy, confessing his sins, or asking the vicar's opinion of his case; and the vicar answered in a solemn snuffing tone, that heightened the ridicule of the scene. The emetic having done its office, the doctor interfered, and ordered the patient to be put in bed again. When he examined the *egista*, and felt his pulse, he declared that much of the *virus* was discharged, and, giving him a composing draught, assured him he had good hopes of his recovery,—— This welcome hint he received with the tears of joy in his eyes, protesting, that if he should recover, he would always think himself indebted for his life to the great skill and tenderness of his doctor, whose hands he squeezed with great fervour; and thus he was left to his repose.

We were pressed to stay dinner, that we might be witnesses of his resuscitation; but my uncle insisted upon our departing before noon, that we might reach this town before it should be dark.——In the mean time, lady Bulford conducted us into the garden to see a fish-pond just finished, which Mr Bramble censured as been too near the parlour, where the knight now sat by himself, dozing in an elbow-chair after the fatigues of his morning achievement——In this situation he reclined, with his feet wrapped in flannel, and supported in a line with his body, when the door flying open with a violent shock, lieutenant Lismahago rushed into the room with horror in his looks, exclaiming, “A mad dog! a mad dog!” and throwing up the window-sash, leaped into the garden.——Sir Thomas, waked by this tremendous exclamation, started

started up, and forgetting his gout, followed the lieutenant's example by a kind of instinctive impulse.—He not only bolted through the window like an arrow from a bow, but ran up to the middle in the pond before he gave the least sign of recollection. Then the captain began to bawl, “Lord have mercy upon us!—pray “take care of the gentleman!—for God’s sake mind “your footing, my dear boy!—get warm blankets— “comfort his poor carcase——warm the bed in the “green room.”

Lady Bulford was thunder-struck at this phenomenon, and the rest of the company gazed in silent astonishment, while the servants hastened to assist their master, who suffered himself to be carried back into the parlour without speaking a word.—Being instantly accommodated with dry clothes and flannels, comforted with a cordial, and replaced *in statu quo*, one of the maids was ordered to chafe his lower extremities, an operation in consequence of which his senses seemed to return, and good humour to revive.—As we had followed him into the room, he looked at every individual in his turn, with a certain ludicrous expression in his countenance, but fixed his eye in particular upon Lismahago, who presented him with a pinch of snuff, and when he took it in silence, “Sir Thomas “Bulford, (said he) I am much obliged to you for all “your favours, and some of them I have endeavoured “to repay in your own coin.” “Give me thy hand “(cried the baronet); thou hast indeed paid me *Scot “and lot*; and even left a balance in my hands, for “which, in presence of this company, I promise to be “accountable.” So saying, he laughed very heartily and even seemed to enjoy the retaliation which had been exacted at his own expence; but lady Bulford looked very grave; and in all probability, thought the lieutenant had carried his resentment too far, considering that her husband was valetudinary——but, ac-

According to the proverb, *he that will play at bowls must expect to meet with rubbers.*

I have seen a tame bear very diverting when properly managed, become a very dangerous wild beast when teized for the entertainment of the spectators. — As for Lisimahago, he seemed to think the fright and the cold bath would have a good effect upon his patient's constitution; but the doctor hinted some apprehension that the gouty matter might, by such a sudden shock, be repelled from the extremities, and thrown upon some of the more vital parts of the machine. I should be very sorry to see this prognostic verified upon our facetious landlord, who told Mrs Tabitha at parting, that he hoped she would remember him in the distribution of the bride's favours, as he had taken so much pains to put the captain's parts and mettle to the proof. After all, I am afraid our 'quire will appear to be the greatest sufferer by the baronet's wit; for his constitution is by no means calculated for night alarms——He has yawned and shivered all day, and gone to bed without supper; so that, as we have got into good quarters, I imagine we shall make halt to-morrow; in which case, you will have at least one day's respite from the persecution of

Oct. 3.

J. MELFORD.

To Mrs MARY JONES, at Brambleton-hall.

DEAR MARY,
MISS Liddy is so good as to uncloze me in a
M kiver as fur as Gloster, and the carrier will
bring it to hand—God send us all safe to Monmouth-
shire,

shire, for I'm quite jaded with rambling—'Tis a true saying, *live and learn*——O woman, what chuckling and changing have I seen!——Well there's nothing fartin in this world—Who would have thought that mistress, after all the pains taken for the good of her prusias sole, would go to throw away her poor body that she would cast the heys of infection upon such a carrying crow as Lashmyhago! as old as Matthewful-lin, as dry as a red redding, and as poor as a starved veeze!——O, Molly! hadst thou seen him come down the ladder in a shirt so scanty, that it could not kiver his nakedness!——The young 'squire called him Dunquickset; but he looked for all the world like Cradoc-ap Morgan, the ould tinker, that suffered at Abergany for stealing of kettle. Then he's a profane scuffle, and, as Mr Clinker says, no better than an imp-fiddle, continually playing upon the pyebill and the new-burth. I doubt he has as little manners as money; for he can't say a civil word, much more make me a present of a pair of gloves for good will; but he looks as if he wanted to be very forewood and familiar. O! that ever a gentlewoman of years and discretion should tare her air, and cry and disporridge herself for such a nupjack! as the song goes—

“I vow she wou'd fain have a burd

“That bids such a price for an owl.”

but, for fartin, he must have dealt with some Scots musician to bring her to this pass——As for me, I put my trust in the Lord; and I have got a slice of witch-elm sowed in the gathers of my under-petticoat; and Mr Clinker assures me, that by the new-light of grease, I may defy the devil and all his works——But I nose what I nose——If mistress should take up with Lashmyhago, that is

no sarvice for me. Thank God, there's not want of places; and if it wan't for one thing, I would—but, no matter. Madam Baynar's woman has twenty good pounds a-year and parquises; and dresses like a parson of distinction. I dined with her and the valley de shambles, with bags and golden jackets; but there was nothing kimfittable to eat, being as how they live upon board, and having nothing but a piss of could cuddling tart and some blamangey, I was tuck with the cullick, and a murcy it was that mistress had her veil of assings in the cox.

But, as I was saying, I think for fartin this match will go forewood; for things have come to creetus; and I have seen with my own eyes such smuggling—But I scorn for to exclose the secrets of the family; and if it wance comes to marrying, who nose but the frolic may go round—I believes as how Miss Liddy would have no reversion if her swan would appear; and you would be surprised, Molly, to receive a bride's fever from your humble sarvant—but this is all suppository, dear girl; and I have sullenly promised to Mr Clinker, that neither man, woman, nor child, shall no that arrow said a civil thing to me in the way of infection—I hopes to drink your health at Brambleton-hall, in a horn of October, before the month be out. Pray let my bed be turned once a-day, and the windore opened, while the weather is dry; and burn a few billets with some brush in the footman's garret, and see their mattrass be dry as bone; for both our gentlemen have got a sad could by lying in damp shits at Sir Tummus Bullfart's. No more at present, but my service to Saul and the rest of our fellow-sarvents, being,

Dear Mary Jones,

always yours,

Oct. 4.

WIN JENKINS.

To

To Miss LÆTITIA WILLIS, at Gloucester.

MY DEAR LETTY,

THIS method of writing to you from time to time, without any hopes of an answer, affords me, I own, some ease and satisfaction in the midst of my disquiet, as it in some degree lightens the burden of affliction; but it is at best a very imperfect enjoyment of friendship, because it admits of no return of confidence and good counsel——I would give the whole world to have your company for a single day—I am heartily tired of this itinerant way of life.—I am quite dizzy with a perpetual succession of objects.—Besides, it is impossible to travel such a length of way, without being exposed to inconveniences, dangers, and disagreeable accidents, which prove very grievous to a poor creature of weak nerves like me, and make me pay very dear for the gratification of my curiosity.

Nature never intended me for the busy world——I long for repose and solitude, where I can enjoy that disinterested friendship which is not to be found among crowds, and indulge those pleasing reveries that shun the hurry and tumult of fashionable society——Unexperienced as I am in the commerce of life, I have seen enough to give me a disgust to the generality of those who carry it on——There is such malice, treachery, and dissimulation, even among professed friends and intimate companions, as cannot fail to strike a virtuous mind with horror; and when vice quits the stage for a moment, her place is immediately occupied by Folly, which is often too serious to excite any thing but compassion. Perhaps I ought to be silent on the foibles of my poor aunt; but with you, my dear Willis, I have no secrets; and truly, her weaknesses are such as cannot be concealed. Since

the first moment we arrived at Bath, she has been employed in constantly spreading nets for the other sex; and, at length, she has caught a superannuated lieutenant, who is in a fair way to make her change her name, my uncle and my brother seem to have no objection to this extraordinary match, which I make no doubt will afford abundance of matter of conversation and mirth; for my part, I am too sensible of my own weaknesses, to be diverted with those of other people. At present, I have something at heart that employs my whole attention, and keeps my mind in the utmost terror and suspense.

Yesterday, in the forenoon, as I stood with my brother at the parlour window of an inn, where we had lodged, a person passed a horseback, whom, (gracious Heaven!) I instantly discovered to be Willson! He wore a white riding-coat, with the cape buttoned up to his chin; looked remarkably pale, and passed at a round trot, without seeming to observe us——Indeed, he could not see us; for there was a blind that concealed us from the view. You may guess how I was affected at this apparition——The light forsook my eyes; and I was seized with such a palpitation and trembling, that I could not stand. I sat down upon a couch, and strove to compose myself, that my brother might not perceive my agitation; but it was impossible to escape his prying eyes——He had observed the object that alarmed me; and, doubtless, knew him at the first glance——He now looked at me with a stern countenance; then he ran out into the street, to see what road the unfortunate horseman had taken——He afterwards dispatched his man for further intelligence, and seemed to mediate some violent design. My uncle, being out of order, we remained another night at the inn; and all day long Jerry acted the part of an indefatigable
spy

spy upon my conduct———He watched my very looks with such eagerness of attention, as if he would have penetrated into the inmost recesses of my heart———This may be owing to his regard for my honour, if it is not the effect of his own pride; but he is so hot, and violent, and unrelenting, that the sight of him alone, throws me into a flutter; and really it will not be in my power to afford him any share of my affection, if he persists in persecuting me at this rate. I am afraid he has formed some scheme of vengeance which will make me completely wretched! I am afraid he suspects some collusion from this appearance of Wilson!——Good God! did he really appear? or was it only a phantom, a pale spectre to apprise me of his death?

O Letty, what shall I do?—where shall I turn for advice and consolation?—shall I implore the protection of my uncle, who has been always kind and compassionate!—This must be my last resource.—I dread the thoughts of making him uneasy; and would rather suffer a thousand deaths than live the cause of dissention in the family.—I cannot perceive the meaning of Wilson's coming hither,—perhaps, he was in quest of us, in order to disclose his real name and situation:——But wherefore pass without staying to make the least enquiry?—My dear Willis, I am lost in conjecture——I have not closed an eye since I saw him——All night long have I been tossed about from one imagination to another. The reflection finds no resting place.——I have prayed, and sighed, and wept, plentifully.——If this terrible suspense continues much longer, I shall have another fit of illness and then the whole family will be in confusion. If it was consistent with the wise purposes of Providence, would I were in my grave. But it is my duty to be resigned.——My dearest Letty, excuse my weakness——excuse these blots—my tears fall so fast that I cannot keep the paper dry——yet I ought

to

to consider that I have as yet no cause to despair—but I am such a faint-hearted timorous creature!

Thank God, my uncle is much better than he was yesterday——He is resolved to pursue our journey straight to Wales. I hope we shall take Gloucester in our way—that hope cheers my poor heart—I shall once more embrace my best beloved Willis, and pour all my griefs into her friendly bosom. O Heaven! is it possible that such happiness is reserved for

The dejected and forlorn,

Oct. 4.

LYDIA MELFORD.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. of Jesus College,
Oxon.

DEAR WATKIN,

I YESTERDAY met with an incident which I believe you will own to be very surprising. As I stood with Liddy at the window of an inn where we had lodged, who should pass by but Wilson a-horseback;—I could not be mistaken in his person, for I had a full view of him as he advanced; I plainly perceived by my sister's confusion that she recognized him at the same time. I was equally astonished and incensed at his appearance, which I could not but interpret into an insult or something worse. I ran out of the gate, and, seeing him turn the corner of the street, I dispatched my servant to observe his motions, but the fellow was too late to bring me that satisfaction. He told me, however, that there was an inn, called the Red Lion, at the end of the town, where he supposed the horseman had alighted, but that he would

would not enquire without further orders I sent him back immediately to know what strangers were in the house, and he returned with a report that there was one Mr Wilson lately arrived. In consequence of this information, I charged him with a note directed to that gentleman, desiring him to meet me in half an hour in a certain field at the town's end, with a case of pistols, in order to decide the difference which could not be determined at our last rencounter: but I did not think proper to subscribe the billet. My man assured me he had delivered it into his own hand; and, that having read it, he declared he would wait upon the gentleman at the place and time appointed.

M'Alpine being an old soldier, and luckily sober at the time, I entrusted him with my secret. I ordered him to be within call, and, having given him a letter to be delivered to my uncle in case of accident, I repaired to the rendezvous, which was an inclosed field at a little distance from the high way. I found my antagonist had already taken his ground, wrapped in a dark horseman's coat, with a laced hat flapped over his eyes; but what was my astonishment, when, throwing off this wrapper, he appeared to be a person whom I had never seen before! He had one pistol stuck in a leather belt, and another in his hand ready for action, and advancing a few steps, called to know if I was ready——I answered, "No," and desired a parley; upon which he turned the muzzle of his piece towards the earth; then replaced it in his belt, and met me half way——When I assured him he was not the man I expected to meet, he said, *it might be so*: that he had received a slip of paper directed to Mr Wilson, requesting him to come hither; and that as there was no other in the place of that name, he naturally concluded the note was intended for him, and him only——I then gave him

him to understand, that I had been injured by a person who assumed that name, which person I had actually seen within the hour, passing through the street on horseback; that hearing there was a Mr Wilson at the Red Lion, I took it for granted he was the man, and in that belief had writ the billet; and I expressed my surprise, that he, who was a stranger to me and my concerns, should give me such a rendezvous, without taking the trouble to demand a previous explanation.—He replied, that there was no other of his name in the whole county; that no such horseman had alighted at the Red Lion since nine o'clock, when he arrived—that having had the honour to serve his Majesty, he thought he could not decently decline any invitation of this kind, from what quarter soever it might come; and that if any explanation was necessary, it did not belong to him to demand it, but to the gentleman, who summoned him into the field.—Vexed as I was at this adventure, I could not help admiring the coolness of this officer, whose open countenance prepossessed me in his favour.—He seemed to be turned of forty; wore his own short black hair, which curled naturally about his ears, and was very plain in his apparel.—When I begged pardon for the trouble I had given him, he received my apology with great good humour.—He told me that he lived about ten miles off, at a small farm house, which would afford me tolerable lodging, if I would come and take the diversion of hunting with him for a few weeks; in which case we might, perhaps, find out the man who had given me offence.—I thanked him very sincerely for his courteous offer, which, I told him, I was not at liberty to accept at present, on account of my being engaged in a family party; and so we parted, with mutual professions of good will and esteem.

Now tell me, dear knight, what I am to make of this singular adventure?—Am I to suppose that the
horseman

horseman I saw was really a thing of flesh and blood, or a bubble that vanished into air?—or must I imagine Liddy knows more of the matter than she chuses to disclose?—If I thought her capable of carrying on any clandestine correspondence with such a fellow, I should at once discard all tenderness, and forget that she was connected with me by the ties of blood—But how is it possible that a girl of her simplicity and inexperience, should maintain such an intercourse, surrounded, as she is, with so many eyes, destitute of all opportunity, and shifting quarters every day of her life!—Besides, she has solemnly promised—No—I can't think the girl so base—so insensible to the honour of her family.—What disturbs me chiefly is the impression which these occurrences seem to make upon her spirits——These are the symptoms from which I conclude that this rascal has still a hold on her affection——surely I have a right to call him a rascal, and to conclude that his designs are infamous——But it shall be my fault if he does not one day repent his presumption—I confess I cannot think, much less write on this subject, with any degree of temper or patience; I shall therefore conclude with telling you, that we hope to be in Wales by the latter end of the month; but before that period you will probably hear again from

Your affectionate

Oct. 4.

J. MELFORD.

To

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. at Oxon.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

WHEN I wrote you by last post, I did not imagine I should be tempted to trouble you again so soon : but I now sit down with a heart so full that it cannot contain itself ; though I am under such agitation of spirits, that you are to expect neither method or connection in the address. — We have been this day within a hair's breadth of losing honest Matthew Bramble, in consequence of a cursed accident, which I will endeavour to explain. — In crossing the country to get into the post road, it was necessary to ford a river, and we that were a-horseback passed without any danger or difficulty ; but a great quantity of rain having fallen last night and this morning, there was such an accumulation of water, that a mill-head gave way, just as the coach was passing under it, and the flood rushed down with such impetuosity, as first floated, and then fairly over-turned the carriage in the middle of the stream. — Lisimahago and I, and the two servants, alighting instantaneously ran into the river to give all the assistance in our power. — Our aunt, Mrs Tabitha, who had the good fortune to be uppermost, was already half-way out of the coach window, when her lover approaching disengaged her entirely ; but, whether his foot slipped, or the burden was too great, they fell over head and ears in each other's arms. He endeavoured more than once to get up, and even to disentangle himself from her embrace, but she hung about his neck like a mill-stone, no bad emblem of matrimony) and if my man had not proved a staunch auxiliary, those two lovers would in all probability have

have gone hand in hand to the shades below——
 For my part, I was too much engaged to take any cognizance of their distresses.——I snatched out my sister by the hair of the head, and dragging her to the bank, recollected that my uncle had not yet appeared.——Rushing again into the stream, I met Mr Clinker hauling ashore Mrs Jenkins, who looked like a mermaid with her hair dishevelled about her ears; but, when I asked if his master was safe, he forthwith shook her from him, and she must have gone to pot, if a miller had not seasonably come to her relief.——As for Humphry, he flew like lightning to the coach, that was by this time filled with water, and, diving into it, brought up the poor 'squire, to all appearance, deprived of life——It is not in my power to describe what I felt at this melancholy spectacle——It was such an agony as baffles all description! The faithful Clinker, taking him up in his arms, as if he had been an infant of six months, carried him ashore, howling most piteously all the way, and I followed him in a transport of grief and consternation——When he was laid upon the grass, and turned from side to side, a great quantity of water ran out at his mouth, then he opened his eyes, and fetched a deep sigh——Clinker perceiving these signs of life, immediately tied up his arm with a garter, and pulling out a horse-bleed, let him bleed in the farrier stile.——At first a few drops only issued from the orifice! but the arm being chafed, in a little time the blood began to flow in a continued stream; and he uttered some incoherent words, which were the most welcome sounds that ever saluted my ear. There was a country inn hard by, the landlord of which had by this time come with his people to give their assistance.——Thither my uncle being carried, was undressed and put to bed wrapped in warm blankets; but having been moved too soon, he fainted away and once more lay

without sense or motion, notwithstanding all the efforts of Clinker and the landlord, who bathed his temples with hungary water, and held a smelling bottle to his nose. As I had heard of the efficacy of salt in such cases, I ordered all that was in the house to be laid under his head and body; and whether this application had the desired effect, or Nature of herself prevailed, he, in less than a quarter of an hour, began to breathe regularly, and soon retrieved his recollection, to the unspeakable joy of all the by-standers. As for Clinker, his brain seemed to be affected.——— He laughed, and wept and danced about in such a distracted manner, that the landlord very judiciously conveyed him out of the room. My uncle seeing me dropping wet, comprehended the whole of what had happened, and asked if all the company was safe?

———Being answered in the affirmative he insisted upon my putting on dry clothes; and, having swallowed a little warm wine, desired he might be left to his repose. Before I went to shift myself, I enquired about the rest of the family———

I found Mrs Tabitha still delirious from her fright, discharging very copiously the water she had swallowed. She was supported by the Captain, distilling drops from his uncurled periwig, so lank and so dank, that he looked like father Thame without his sedges, embracing Isis while she cascaded in his urn. Mrs Jenkins was present also, in a loose bed-gown, without either cap or handkerchief; but she seemed to be as little *compos mentis* as her mistress, and acted so many cross purposes in the course of her attendance, that, between the two, Lismahago had occasion for all his philosophy. As for Liddy, I thought the poor girl would have actually lost her senses. The good woman of the house had shifted her linen, and put her

her into bed; but she was seized with the idea that her uncle had perished, and in this persuasion made a dismal out-cry; nor did she pay the least regard to what I said, when I solemnly assured her he was safe. Mr Bramble hearing the noise, and being informed of her apprehension, desired she might be brought into his chamber; and she no sooner received this intimation, than she ran thither half naked, with the wildest expression of eagerness in her countenance.——Seeing the 'squire sitting up in the bed, she sprung forwards, and, throwing her arms about his neck, exclaimed in a most pathetic tone, “Are you---Are you indeed my “uncle——My dear uncle!——My best friend! My “father!——Are you really living! or is it an “illusion of my poor brain?” Honest Matthew was so much affected, that he could not help shedding tears, while he kissed her forehead, saying, “My dear Liddy, I hope I shall live long enough to “shew how sensible I am of your affection—— “But your spirits are fluttered, child——You want “rest——Go to bed and compose yourself——” “Well, I will (she replied)——but still methinks “this cannot be real——The coach was full of “water——My uncle was under us all——Gracious “God!——You was under water——How did “you get out?——Tell me that? or I shall think “this is all a deception.——” “In what manner I “was brought out, I know as little as you do, “my dear, (said the 'squire); and truly that is a circumstance of which I want to be informed.” I would have given him a detail of the whole adventure, but he would not hear me until I should change my clothes; so that I had only time to tell him that he owed his life to the courage and fidelity of Clinker; and having given him this hint, I conducted my sister to her own chamber.

This accident happened about three o'clock in the afternoon, and in little more than an hour the hurricane was all over; but as the carriage was found to be so much damaged, that it could not proceed without considerable repairs, a blacksmith and wheelwright were immediately sent for to the next market-town, and we congratulated ourselves upon being housed at an inn, which, though remote from the post road, afforded exceeding good lodging. The women being pretty well composed, and the men all afoot, my uncle sent for his servant, and, in the presence of Lismahago and me, accosted him in these words—"So Clinker, I find you are resolved I shan't die by water—As you have fished me up from the bottom at your own risque, you are at least entitled to all the money that was in my pocket, and there it is——" So saying, he presented him with a purse containing thirty guineas, and a ring nearly of the same value—"God forbid! (cried Clinker) your honour shall excuse me—I am a poor fellow; but I have a heart——O! if your honour did but know how I rejoiced to see——Blessed be his holy name, that made me the humble instrument——But as for the lucre of gain I renounce it——I have done no more than my duty——No more than I would have done for the most worthless of my fellow-creatures——No more than I would have done for captain Lismahago, or Archy Macalpine, or any sinner upon earth——But for your worship, I would go through fire as well as water——" "I do believe it Humphry (said the squire); but as you think it was your duty to save my life at the hazard of your own, I think it is mine to express the sense I have of your extraordinary fidelity and attachment—I insist upon your receiving this small token of my gratitude; but don't imagine that I look upon this as an adequate

" quote

"quate recompence for the service you have done
"me——I have determined to settle thirty pounds
"a year upon you for life; and I desire these
"gentlemen will bear witness to this my intention,
"of which I have a memorandum in my pocket-
"book." "Lord make me thankful for all these
"mercies! (cried Clinker sobbing,) I have been
"a poor bankrupt from the beginning——your
"honour's goodness found me, when I was——naked
"——when I was——sick and forlorn——I un-
"derstand your honour's looks——I would not give
"offence——But my heart is very full—and if your
"Worship won't give me leave to speak——I must
"vent it in prayers to Heaven for my benefactor."
When he quitted the room, Lismahago said, he
should have a much better opinion of his honesty, if
he did not whine and cant so abominably; but that he
had always observed those weeping and praying fel-
lows were hypocrites at bottom. Mr Bramble made
no reply to this sarcastic remark, proceeding from
the lieutenant's resentment of Clinker's having, in
pure simplicity of heart, ranked him with M'Alpine
and the sinners upon earth.—The landlord being cal-
led to receive some orders about the beds, told the
'quire that his house was very much at his service,
but he was sure he should not have the honour to
lodge him and his company. He gave us to under-
stand, that his master, who lived hard by, would not
suffer us to be at a public house, when there was ac-
commodation for us at his own; and that, if he had
not dined abroad in the neighbourhood, he would
have undoubtedly come to offer his services at our
first arrival. He then launched out in praise of
that gentleman, whom he had served as butler,
representing him as a perfect miracle of goodness
and generosity. He said he was a person of great
learning, and allowed to be the best farmer in the
R 3 country

country———that he had a lady who was as much beloved as himself, and an only son, a very hopeful young gentleman, just recovered from a dangerous fever, which had like to have proved fatal to the whole family; for, if the son had died, he was sure the parents would not have survived their loss.

———He had not yet finished the encomium of Mr Dennison, when this gentleman arrived in a post-chaise, and his appearance seemed to justify all that had been said in his favour. He is pretty well advanced in years, but hale, robust, and florid, with an ingenious countenance, expressive of good sense and humanity. Having condoled with us on the accident which had happened, he said he was come to conduct us to his habitation, where we should be less incommoded than at such a paltry inn, and expressed his hope that the ladies would not be the worse for going thither in his carriage, as the distance was not above a quarter of a mile. My uncle having made a proper return to this courteous exhibition, eyed him attentively, and then asked if he had not been at Oxford, a commoner of Queen's college? When Mr Dennison answered, "Yes," with some marks of surprise———"Look at me then (said our 'squire) and "let us see if you can recollect the features of an old "friend, whom ye have not seen these forty years."———The gentleman, taking him by the hand, and gazing at him earnestly,———"I protest, (cried he) I do think I recollect the idea of Mathew Loyd "of Glamorganshire, who was a student of Jesus." "Well remembered, my dear friend Charles Dennison (exclaimed my uncle, pressing him to his "breast) I am that very identical Matthew Loyd "of Glamorgan." Clinker, who had just entered the room with some coals for the fire, no sooner heard these words, than throwing down the scuttle on the toes of Lilmahago, he began to caper as if he was mad, crying———"Matthew Loyd of Glamorgan!

“morgan!—O Providence!—Matthew Loyd of
“Glamorgan!”——Then, clasping my uncle’s
knees, he went on in this manner—“Your Worship
“must forgive me—Matthew Loyd of Glamorgan!
“——O Lord, Sir!—I cannot contain myself!—I
“shall loose my senses”—“Nay, thou hast lost them
“already, I believe, (said the ‘squire, peevishly) pr’y-
“thee, Clinker, be quiet—What is the matter!
——Humphry fumbling in his bosom, pulled out an
old wooden snuff-box, which he presented in great
trepidation to his master, who, opening it immedi-
ately, perceived a small cornelian seal, and two scraps
of paper——At sight of these articles he started
and changed colour, and casting his eyes upon the in-
scriptions——“Ha!—how!—what!—where (cri-
“ed he) is the person here named!—Clinker
knocking his own breast, could hardly pronounce these
words——“Here—here—here is Matthew Loyd, as
“the certificate sheweth—Humphry Clinker was the
“name of the farrier that took me ‘prentice.”—“And
“who gave you these tokens?”—said my uncle, hastily—
“My poor mother on her death bed.”—replied
the other——“And who was your mother?” “Do-
“rothy Twyford, an’ please your honour, heretofore
“bar-keeper at the angel in Chippenham.” “And
“why were not these tokens produced before?”——
“My mother told me she had wrote to Glamorgan-
“shire, at the time of my birth, but had no answer;
“and that afterwards, when she made enquiry, there
“was no such person in that county.” “And so
“in consequence of my changing my name and
“going abroad at the very time, thy poor mother
“and thou have been left to want and misery——
“I am really shocked at the consequence of my own
“folly.”——Then, laying his hand on Clin-
ker’s head, he added, “Stand forth Matthew Loyd
“———You see, gentlemen, how the sins of my
“youth rise up in judgment against me—Here is
“my

“ my direction written with my own hand, and a seal
 “ which I left at the woman’s request ; and this is a
 “ certificate of the child’s baptism, signed by the cu-
 “ rate of the parish.” The company were not a little
 surprised at this discovery, upon which Mr Dennison
 facetiously congratulated both the father and the son :
 for my part, I took my new found cousin heartily by
 the hand, and Lismahago complimented him with
 tears in his eyes, for he had been hopping about the
 room, swearing in broad Scots, and bellowing with the
 pain occasioned by the fall of the coal scuttle upon
 his foot. He had even vowed to drive the *saul* out of
 the body of that mad rascal : but, perceiving the un-
 expected turn which things had taken, he wished him
 joy of his good fortune, observing that it went very
 near his heart, as he was like to be a great-toe out of
 pocket by the discovery—Mr Dennison now desired
 to know for what reason my uncle had changed the
 name by which he knew him at Oxford, and our
 squire satisfied him, by answering to this effect——
 “ I took my mother’s name, which was Loyd, as heir
 “ to her lands in Glamorganshire ; but, when I came
 “ of age, I sold that property, in order to clear my
 “ paternal estate, and resumed my real name ; so that
 “ I am now Matthew Bramble of Brambleton-hall, in
 “ Monmouthshire, at your service ; and this is my
 “ nephew, Jeremy Melford of Belfield, in the country
 “ of Glamorgan.” At that instant the ladies enter-
 ing the room, he presented Mrs Sabitha as his sister,
 and Liddy as his niece. The old gentleman saluted
 them very cordially, and seemed struck with the ap-
 pearance of my sister whom he could not help sur-
 veying with a mixture of complacency and surprise—
 “ Sister, (said my uncle) there is a poor relation that
 “ recommends himself to your good graces —— The
 “ quondam Humphry Clinker is metamorphosed into
 “ Matthew Loyd ; and claims the honour of being
 “ your carnal kinsman—in short, the rogue proves to
 “ be

“be a crab of my own planting in the days of hot blood and unrestrained libertinism.” Clinker had by this time dropt upon one knee, by the side of Mrs Tabitha, who eyeing him askance, and flirting her fan with marks of agitation, thought proper, after some conflict, to hold out her hand for him to kiss, saying, with a demure aspect, “Brother, you have been very wicked : but I hope you’ll live to see the folly of your ways——I am very sorry to say the young man whom you have this day acknowledged, has more grace and religion, by the gift of God, than you with all your profane learning and repeated opportunity—I do think he has got the trick of the eye, and the tip of the nose of my uncle Loyd of Elluydwella ; and as for the long chin it is the very moral of the governor’s——Brother, as you have changed his name, pray change his dress also ; that livery doth not become any person that hath got our blood in his viens.”——Liddy seemed much pleased with this acquisition to the family —She took him by the hand, declaring she should always be proud to own her connection with a virtuous young man, who had given so many proofs of his gratitude and affection to her uncle.——Mrs Winifred Jenkins, extremely fluttered between her surprise at this discovery, and the apprehension of losing her sweet-heart, exclaimed in a giggling tone,——“ I wish you joy, Mr Clinker——Floyd——I would say—hi, hi, hi ! —you’ll be so proud, you won’t look at your poor fellow servants, oh, oh, oh !”——Honest Clinker owned he was overjoyed at his good fortune, which was greater than he deserved——“ But wherefore should I be proud ? (said he) a poor object conceived in sin, and brought forth in iniquity, nursed in a parish work-house, and bred in a smithy——Whenever I seem proud, Mrs Jenkins, I beg of you to put me in mind of the condition I was in, when I first saw you between Chippenham and Marlborough.”

When

When this momentous affair was discussed to the satisfaction of all parties concerned, the weather being dry, the ladies declined the carriage; so that we walked altogether to Mr Dennison's house, where we found the tea ready prepared by his lady, an amiable matron, who received us with all the benevolence of hospitality—The house is old fashioned and irregular, but lodgeable and commodious. To the south it has the river in front, at the distance of a hundred paces; and on the north, there is a rising ground, covered with an agreeable plantation; the greens and walks are kept in the nicest order, and all is rural and romantic. I have not yet seen the young gentleman, who is on a visit to a friend in the neighbourhood, from whose house he is not expected till to-morrow.

In the mean time, as there is a man going to the next market town with letters for the post, I take this opportunity to send you the history of this day, which has been remarkably full of adventures; and you will own I give you them like a beef-steak at Dolly's *hot* and *hot*, without ceremony or parade, just as they come from the recollection of

Yours,

J. MELFORD.

To

To Dr LEWIS.

DEAR DICK,

SINCE the last trouble I gave you, I have met with a variety of incidents, some of them of a singular nature, which I reserve as a fund of conversation; but there are others so interesting, that they will not keep in *petto* till meeting.

Know then, it was a thousand pounds to a sixpence, that you should now be executing my will, instead of perusing my letter! Two days ago, our coach was overturned in the midst of a rapid river, where my life was saved with the utmost difficulty, by the courage, activity, and presence of mind of my servant Humphry Clinker——But this is not the most surprising circumstance of the adventure——The said Humphry Clinker proves to be Matthew Loyd, natural son of one Matthew Loyd of Glamorgan, if you know any such person——You see, doctor, that, notwithstanding all your philosophy, it is not without some reason that we Welchmen ascribe such energy to the force of blood——But we shall discuss this point on some future occasion.

This is not the only discovery which I made in consequence of our disaster——We happened to be wrecked upon a friendly shore——The lord of the manor is no other than Charles Dennison, our fellow rake at Oxford——We are now happily housed with that gentleman, who has really attained to that pitch of rural felicity, at which I have been aspiring these twenty years in vain. He is blessed with a consort, whose disposition is suited to his own in all respects; tender, generous, and benevolent——She, moreover, possesses an uncommon share of understanding, fortitude, and discretion, and is admirably

admirably qualified to be his companion, confident, counsellor, and coadjutrix. These excellent persons have an only son, about nineteen years of age, just such a youth as they could have wished that Heaven would bestow to fill up the measure of their enjoyment———In a word, they know no other ally to their happiness, but their apprehension and anxiety about the life and concerns of this beloved object.

Our old friend, who had the misfortune to be a second brother, was bred to the law, and even called to the bar ; but he did not find himself qualified to shine in that province, and had very little inclination for his profession———He disobliged his father by marrying for love without any consideration of fortune ; so that he had little or nothing to depend upon for some years but his practice, which afforded him a bare subsistence ; and the prospect of an encreasing family, began to give him disturbance and disquiet. In the mean time, his father dying, was succeeded by his elder brother, a fox hunter, and a sot, who neglected his affairs, insulted and oppressed his servants, and in a few years had well nigh ruined the estate, when he was happily carried off by a fever, the immediate consequence of a debauch. Charles, with the approbation of his wife, immediately determined to quit business, and retire into the country, although this resolution was strenuously and zealously opposed by every individual, whom he consulted on the subject. Those who had tried the experiment, assured him that he could not pretend to breathe in the country for less than the double of what his estate produced ; that, in order to be upon the footing of a gentleman, he would be obliged to keep horses, hounds, carriages, with a suitable number of servants, and maintain an elegant table for the entertainment of his neighbours ; that farming was a mystery known
only

only to those who had been bred up to it from the cradle, the success of it depending not only upon skill and industry, but also upon such attention and œconomy as no gentleman could be supposed to give or practise; accordingly every attempt made by gentlemen miscarried, and not a few had been ruined by their prosecution of agriculture ———— Nay, they affirmed that he would find it cheaper to buy hay and oats for his cattle, and to go to market for poultry, eggs, kitchen herbs, and roots, and every the most inconsiderable article of house-keeping, than to have those articles produced on his own ground.

These objections did not deter Mr Dennison, because they were chiefly founded on the supposition, that he would be obliged to lead a life of extravagance and dissipation, which he and his consort equally detested, despised, and determined to avoid ———— The objects he had in view, were health of body, peace of mind, and the private satisfaction of domestic quiet, unallayed by actual want, and uninterrupted by the fears of indigence ———— He was very moderate in his estimate of the necessaries, and even of the comforts of life---he required nothing but wholesome air, pure water, agreeable exercise, plain diet, convenient lodging, and decent apparel. He reflected, that if a peasant without education, or any great share of natural sagacity, could maintain a large family, and even become opulent upon a farm, for which he paid an annual rent of two or three hundred pounds to the landlord, surely he himself might hope for some success from his industry, having no rent to pay, but on the contrary, three or four hundred pounds a-year to receive ———— He considered that the earth was an indulgent mother, that yielded her fruits to all her children without distinction. He had studied the theory of agriculture with a degree of eagerness

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eagerness and delight; and he could not conceive there was any mystery in the practice, but what he should be able to disclose by dint of care and application. With respect to household expence, he entered into a minute detail and investigation, by which he perceived the assertions of his friends were altogether erroneous—He found he should save sixty pounds a-year in the single article of house-rent, and as much more in pocket-money and contingencies; that even butcher's meat was twenty per cent cheaper in the country than in London; but that poultry, and almost every other circumstance of house keeping, might be had for less than one half of what they cost in town; besides, a considerable saving on the side of dress, in being delivered from the oppressive imposition of ridiculous modes, invented by ignorance, and adopted by folly.

As to the danger of vying with the rich in pomp and equipage, it never gave him the least disturbance. He was now turned of forty, and having lived half that time in the busy scenes of life, was well skilled in the science of mankind. There cannot be in nature a more contemptible figure than that of a man, who with five hundred a-year presumes to rival in expence a neighbour who possesses five times that income—His ostentation, far from concealing, serves only to discover his indigence, and render his vanity the more shocking; for it attracts the eyes of censure, and excites the spirit of enquiry. There is not a family in the county, nor a servant in his own house, nor a farmer in the parish, but what knows the utmost farthing that his lands produce, and all these behold him with scorn or compassion. I am surprised that these reflections do not occur to persons in this unhappy dilemma, and produce a salutary effect; but the truth is, of all the passions incident to human nature, vanity is that which most effectually perverts the faculties of the understanding; nay, it sometimes be-
comes

comes so incredibly depraved, as to aspire at infamy, and find pleasure in bearing the stigmas of reproach.

I have now given you a sketch of the character and situation of Mr Dennison, when he came down to take possession of his estate; but as the messenger who carries the letters to the next town, is just setting off, I shall reserve what further I have to say on this subject, till the next post, when you shall certainly hear from

Yours always,

Oct. 8.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Dr LEWIS.

ONCE more, dear doctor, I resume the pen for your amusement.—It was on the morning after our arrival, that walking out with my friend, Mr Dennison, I could not help breaking forth into the warmest expressions of applause at the beauty of the scene, which is really enchanting; and I signified, in particular, how much I was pleased with the disposition of some detached groves, that afforded at once shelter and ornament to his habitation.

“When I took possession of these lands, about
 “two and twenty years ago, (said he) there was
 “not a tree standing within a mile of the house,
 “except those of an old neglected orchard, which
 “produced nothing but leaves and moss——It
 “was in the gloomy month of November, when I
 “arrived, and found the house in such a condition,
 “that it might have been justly stiled the *tower of*
 “*desolation*——The court-yard was covered with
 “nettles and docks, and the garden exhibited such a

“a rank plantation of weeds as I had never seen before;——the window-shutters were falling in pieces;——the sashes broken; ———and owls and jack-daws had taken possession of the chimnies. “——The prospect within was still more dreary—— “All was dark, and damp, and dirty beyond description;——the rain penetrated in several parts of the roof;——in some apartments the very floors had given way:——the hangings were parted from the walls, and shaking in mouldy remnants;——the glasses were dropping out of their frames,——the family-pictures were covered with dust;——and all the chairs and tables worm-eaten and crazy.——There was not a bed in the house that could be used, except one old-fashioned machine, with a high gilt tester, and fringed curtains of yellow mohair, which had been for aught I know, two centuries in the family——In short, there was no furniture but the utensils of the kitchen; and the cellar afforded nothing but a few empty butts and barrels, that stunk so abominably, that I would not suffer any body to enter it, until I had flashed a considerable quantity of gun-powder to qualify the foul air within.

“An old cottager and his wife, who were hired to lie in the house, had left it with precipitation, alledging among other causes of retreat, that they could not sleep for frightful noises, and that my poor brother certainly walked after his death.——In a word, the house appeared uninhabitable; the barn, stable, and out-houses were in ruins; all the fences broken down, and the fields lying waste.

“The farmer who kept the key never dreamed I had any intention to live upon the spot.——He rented a farm of sixty pounds, and his lease was just expiring.——He had formed a scheme of
“being

“ being appointed bailiff to the estate, and of converting the house and the adjacent grounds to his own use.—A hint of his intention I received from the curate at my first arrival; I therefore did not pay much regard to what he said by way of discouraging me from coming to settle in the country: but I was a little startled when he gave me warning, that he should quit the farm at the expiration of his lease, unless I would abate considerably in the rent.

“ At this period I accidentally became acquainted with a person, whose friendship laid the foundation of all my prosperity. In the next market-town, I chanced to dine at an inn with a Mr Wilson, who was lately come to settle in the neighbourhood.—He had been lieutenant of a man of war; but quitted the sea in some disgust, and married the only daughter of farmer Bland, who lives in this parish, and has acquired a good fortune in the way of husbandry.—Wilson is one of the best natured men I ever knew; brave, frank, obliging, and ingenious.—He liked my conversation, I was charmed with his liberal manner; an acquaintance immediately commenced, and this was soon improved into a friendship without reserve.—There are characters which like similar particles of matter strongly attract each other.—He forthwith introduced me to his father-in-law, farmer Bland, who was well acquainted with every acre of my estate, of consequence well qualified to advise me on this occasion.—Finding I was inclined to embrace a country life, and even to amuse myself with the occupations of farming, he approved of my design.—He gave me to understand that all my farms were under-let; that the estate was capable of great improvement; that there was plenty of chalk in the neighbourhood;

“and that my own ground produced excellent marle
 “for manure. With respect to the farm, which was
 “like to fall into my hands, he said he would will-
 “ingly take it at the present rent; but at the same
 “time owned, that if I would expend two hundred
 “pounds in inclosures, it would be worth more than
 “double the sum.

“Thus encouraged, I began the execution of my
 “scheme without further delay, and plunged into
 “a sea of expence, though I had no fund in re-
 “serve, and the whole produce of the estate did
 “not exceed three hundred pounds a-year. In one
 “week my house was made weather tight, and
 “thoroughly cleansed from top to bottom; then
 “it was well ventilated by throwing all the doors
 “and windows open, and making blazing fires of
 “wood in every chimney from the kitchen to the
 “garrets————The floors were repaired, the
 “sashes new glazed, and out of the old furniture of
 “the whole house, I made shift to fit up a parlour
 “and three chambers in a plain yet decent manner.
 “The court-yard was cleared of weeds and rubbish,
 “and my friend Wilson charged himself with the
 “dressing of the garden; bricklayers were set at
 “work upon the barn and stable; and labourers en-
 “gaged to restore the fences, and begin the work of
 “hedging and ditching, under the direction of farmer
 “Bland, at whose recommendation I hired a careful
 “hind to lie in the house, and keep constant fires
 “in the apartments.

“Having taken these measures, I returned to
 “London, where I forthwith sold off my household-
 “furniture, and in three weeks from my first
 “visit, brought my wife hither to keep her Christ-
 “mas.————Considering the gloomy season of
 “the year, the dreariness of the place, and the de-
 “cayed aspect of our habitation, I was afraid that
 “her resolution would sink under the sudden tran-
 “sition

“ fition from a town life to fuch a melancholy ftate
“ of rufication; but I was agreeably difappointed.
“ ————She found the reality lefs uncomfortable
“ than the picture I had drawn. By this time, in-
“ deed, things were mended in appearance. The out-
“ houfes had rifen out of their ruins; the pigeon-
“ houfe was re-built, and replenifhed by Wilfon,
“ who alfo put my garden in decent order, and pro-
“ vided a good ftock of poultry, which made an agree-
“ able figure in my yard; and the houfe, on the whole,
“ looked like the habitation of human creatures —
“ Farmer Bland fpared me a milch-cow for my fami-
“ ly, and an ordinary faddle-horfe for my fervant to
“ go to market at the next town—I hired a country
“ lad for a footman; the hind’s daughter was my
“ houfe-maid, and my wife had brought a cook-
“ maid from London.

“ Such was my family when I began houfe-
“ keeping in this place, with three hundred pounds
“ in my pocket, raifed from the fale of my super-
“ fluous furniture ————I knew we fhould find
“ occupation enough through the day to employ our
“ time; but I dreaded the long winter evenings; yet
“ for thefe too we found a remedy.—The curate, who
“ was a fingle man, foon became fo naturalized to
“ the family, that he generally lay in the houfe, and
“ his company was equally agreeable and ufeful.
“ He was a modeft man, a good fcholar, and per-
“ fectly well qualified to inftruct me in fuch coun-
“ try matters as I wanted to know. Mr Wilfon
“ brought his wife to fee us, and fhe became fo fond
“ of Mrs Dennifon, that fhe faid fhe was never fo
“ happy as when fhe enjoyed the benefit of her con-
“ verfation. ————She was then a fine buxom
“ country lafs, exceedingly docile and as good natu-
“ red as her husband Jack Wilfon; fo that a friend-
“ fhip enfued among the women, which hath conti-
“ nued to this day.

“ As

“As for Jack, he hath been my constant compa-
 nion, counsellor, and commissary——I would not
 for a hundred pounds you should leave my house
 without seeing him——Jack is an universal
 genius—his talents are really astonishing——He is
 an excellent carpenter, joiner, and turner, and a
 cunning artist in iron and brass——He not only
 superintended my œconomy, but also presided over
 my pastimes——He taught me to brew beer, to
 make cyder, perry, mead, usquebaugh, and plague-
 water; to cook several outlandish delicacies, such
 as *allas*, *pepper-pots*, *pillaws*, *corrys*, *chabobs* and *flu-
 fatas*——He understands all manner of games, from
 chess down to chuck-farthing, sings a good song,
 plays upon the violin, and dances a hornpipe with
 surprising agility.——He and I walked, and
 rode, and hunted, and fished together, without
 minding the vicissitudes of the weather; and I am
 persuaded, that in a raw, moist climate, like this of
 England, continual exercise is as necessary as food
 to the preservation of the individual——In
 the course of two and twenty years, there has
 not been one hour’s interruption or abatement
 in the friendship subsisting between Wilson’s fami-
 ly and mine; and, what is a rare instance of good
 fortune, that friendship is continued to our chil-
 dren.——His son and mine are nearly of
 the same age and the same disposition; they have
 been bred up together at the same school and
 college, and love each other with the warmest af-
 fection.

“By Wilson’s means, I likewise formed an ac-
 quaintance with a sensible physician, who lives in
 the next market town; and his sister, an agreea-
 ble old maiden, passed the Christmas holidays at
 our house——Mean while I began my
 farming with great eagerness, and that very
 “winter

“ winter planted these groves that pleased you so
“ much. As for the neighbouring gentry, I had no
“ trouble from that quarter during my first campaign;
“ they were all gone to town before I settled in the
“ country; and by the summer I had taken measures
“ to defend myself from their attacks.—When a gay
“ equipage came to my gates, I was never at home;
“ those who visited me in a modest way, I received;
“ and according to the remarks I made on their cha-
“ racters and conversation, either rejected their ad-
“ vances, or returned their civility—I was in general
“ despised among the fashionable company, as a low
“ fellow, both in breeding and circumstances, never-
“ theless, I found a few individuals of moderate for-
“ tune, who gladly adopted my stile of living; and
“ many others would have acceded to our society, had
“ they not been prevented by the pride, envy, and
“ ambition of their wives and daughters—Those, in
“ time of luxury and dissipation, are the rocks upon
“ which all the small estates in the country are
“ wrecked.

“ I reserved in my own hands some acres of
“ ground adjacent to the house, for making expe-
“ riments in agriculture, according to the directions
“ of Lyle, Tull, Hart, Duhamel, and others, who
“ have written on the subject; and qualified their
“ theory with the practical observations of farmer
“ Bland, who was my great master in the art of
“ husbandry————In short, I became ena-
“ moured of a country life; and my success greatly
“ exceeded my expectation ———I drained bogs,
“ burned heath, grubbed up furze and fern; I plant-
“ ed copse and willows where nothing else would
“ grow, I gradually inclosed all my farms; and made
“ such improvements, that my estate now yields me
“ clear twelve hundred pounds a year.————All
“ this time my wife and I have enjoyed uninter-
rupted

"rupted health, and a regular flow of spirits, except
 "on a very few occasions, when our cheerfulness was
 "invaded by such accidents as are inseparable from
 "the condition of life—I lost two children in their
 "infancy, by the small-pox, so that I have one son
 "only, in whom all our hopes are centred. He
 "went yesterday to visit a friend, with whom he has
 "staid all night, but he will be here to dinner. I
 "shall this day have the pleasure of presenting him
 "to you and your family; and I flatter myself you
 "will find him not altogether unworthy of our af-
 "fection.

"The truth is, either I am blinded by the partia-
 "lity of a parent, or he is a boy of a very amiable
 "character; and yet his conduct has given us un-
 "speakable disquiet. You must know, we had pro-
 "jected a match between him and a gentleman's daugh-
 "ter, in the next county, who will in all probability
 "be heiress of a considerable fortune; but, it seems,
 "he had a personal disgust to the alliance.—He was
 "then at Cambridge, and tried to gain time on vari-
 "ous pretences; but being pressed in letters by his
 "mother and me to give a definitive answer, he
 "fairly gave his tutor the slip, and disappeared about
 "eight months ago.—Before he took this rash
 "step, he wrote me a letter, explaining his ob-
 "jections to the match, and declaring, that he
 "would keep himself concealed until he should un-
 "derstand that his parents would dispense with his
 "contracting an engagement that must make him
 "miserable for life, and he proscribed the form of ad-
 "vertising in a certain news-paper, by which he might
 "be apprized of our sentiments on this subject.

"You may easily conceive how much we were
 "alarmed and afflicted by this elopement, which
 "he had made without dropping the least hint to
 "his companion Charles Wilson, who belonged to
 "the

“the same college.—We resolved to punish him
“with the appearance of neglect, in hopes that he
“would return of his own accord; but he maintained
“his purpose till the young lady chose a partner for
“herself; then he produced himself, and made his
“peace by the mediation of Wilson.—Suppose we
“should unite our families by joining him with your
“niece, who is one of the most lovely creatures I e-
“ver beheld. My wife is already as fond of her as
“if she were her own child, and I have a presenti-
“ment that my son will be captivated by her at first
“fight.” “Nothing could be more agreeable to all
“our family (said I) than such an alliance; but, my
“dear friend, candour obliges me to tell you, that I
“am afraid Liddy’s heart is not wholly disengaged—
“there is a cursed obstacle——.” “You mean the
“young stroller at Gloucester (said he)—You are
“surprised that I should know this circumstance; but
“you will be more surprised when I tell you that
“stroller is no other than my son George Dennison—
“That was the character he assumed in his eclipse.”
“I am, indeed, astonished, and overjoyed, (cried I)
“and shall be happy beyond expression to see your
“proposal take effect.”

He then gave me to understand that the young gentleman, at his emerging from concealment, had disclosed his passion for Miss Melford, the niece of Mr Bramble of Monmouthshire. Though Mr Dennison little dreamed that this was his old friend Matthew Loyd, he nevertheless furnished his son with proper credentials, and he had been at Bath, London, and many other places in quest of us, to make himself and his pretensions known——The bad success of his enquiry had such an affect upon his spirits, that immediately at his return he was seized with a dangerous fever, which overwhelmed his parents with terror and affliction; but he was

now

now happily recovered, though still weak and disconsolate. My nephew joining us in the walk, I informed him of these circumstances, with which he was wonderfully pleased. He declared he would promote the match to the utmost of his power, and that he longed to embrace young Mr Dennison as his friend and brother.—Mean while, the father went to desire his wife to communicate this discovery gradually to Liddy, that her delicate nerves might not suffer too sudden a shock; and I imparted the particulars to my sister Tabby, who expressed some surprise, not altogether unmixed, I believe, with an emotion of envy; for, though she could have no objection to an alliance at once so honourable and advantageous, she hesitated in giving her consent, on the pretence of the youth and inexperience of the parties: at length, however, she acquiesced, in consequence of having consulted with captain Lismahago.

Mr Dennison took care to be in the way when his son arrived at the gate, and, without giving him time or opportunity to make any enquiry about the strangers, brought him up stairs to be presented to Mr Loyd and his family—The first person he saw, when he entered the room, was Liddy, who notwithstanding all her preparation, stood trembling in the utmost confusion—At sight of this object, he was fixed motionless to the floor, and, gazing at her with the utmost eagerness of astonishment, exclaimed, “Sacred heaven! what is this!—ha! wherefore—” Here his speech failing, he stood straining his eyes, in the most emphatic silence——“George, (said his father) this is my friend Mr Loyd.” Roused at this intimation, he turned and received my salute, when I said, “Young gentleman, if you had trusted me with your secret at our last meeting, we should have parted upon better terms.” Before he could make any answer, Jerry came round and stood before him with open arms.—At first he started and changed colour; but

but after a short pause, he rushed into his embrace, and they hugged one another as if they had been intimate friends from their infancy: then he paid his respects to Mrs Tabitha, and advancing to Liddy, "Is it possible, (cried he) that my senses do not play me false!—That I see Miss Melford under my father's roof—that I am permitted to speak to her without giving offence—and that her relations have honoured me with their countenance and protection." Liddy blushed, and trembled, and faltered—"To be sure, Sir, (said she) it is a very surprising circumstance—a great—a providential—I really know not what I say—but I beg you will think I have said what's agreeable."

Mrs Dennison interposing, said, "Compose yourselves, my dear children.—Your mutual happiness shall be our peculiar care." The son going up to his mother, kissed one hand; my niece bathed the other with her tears; and the good old lady pressed them both in their turns to her breast.—The lovers were too much affected to get rid of their embarrassment for one day: but the scene was much enlivened by the arrival of Jack Wilson, who brought as usual some game of his own killing.—His honest countenance was a good letter of recommendation.—I received him like a dear friend after a long separation: and I could not help wondering to see him shake Jerry by the hand as an old acquaintance. They had, indeed, been acquainted some days, in consequence of a diverting incident, which I shall explain at meeting.—That same night a consultation was held upon the concerns of the lovers, when the match was formally agreed to, and all the marriage-articles were settled without the least dispute—My nephew and I promised to make Liddy's fortune five thousand pounds. Mr Dennison declared, he would make over one half of his estate immediately to his son, and that his daughter-in-law should be secured in a jointure

ture of four hundred.—Tabby proposed, that considering their youth, they should undergo one year at least of probation before the indissoluble knot should be tied; but the young gentlemen being very impatient and importunate, and the scheme implying that the young couple should live in the house under the wings of his parents, we resolved to make them happy without further delay.

As the law requires that the parties should be some weeks resident in the parish, we shall stay here till the ceremony is performed.—Mr Lismahago requests that he may take the benefit of the same occasion; so that next Sunday the banns will be published for all four together. I doubt I shall not be able to pass my Christmas with you at Brambleton-hall.—Indeed, I am so agreeably situated in this place, that I have no desire to shift my quarters; and I foresee, that when the day of separation comes, there will be abundance of sorrow on all sides.—In the mean time, we must make the most of those blessings which Heaven bestows.—Consider how you are tethered by your profession, I cannot hope to see you so far from home; yet the distance does not exceed a summer's day's journey, and Charles Dennison, who desires to be remembered to you, would be rejoiced to see his old compotator; but as I am now stationary, I expect regular answers to the epistles of,

Yours invariably,

Oct. 11;

MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. at Oxon.

DEAR WAT,

EVERY day is now big with incident and discovery——Young Mr Dennison proves to be no other than that identical person whom I have execrated so long under the name of Wilson——He had eloped from college at Cambridge, to avoid a match that he detested, and acted in different parts of the country as a stroller, until the lady in question made choice of a husband for herself; then he returned to his father, and disclosed his passion for Liddy, which met with the approbation of his parents, though the father little imagined that Mr Bramble was his old companion Matthew Loyd. The young gentleman being empowered to make honourable proposals to my uncle and me, had been in search of us all over England, without effect; and he it was whom I had seen pass on horseback by the window of the inn, where I stood with my sister, but he little dreamed that we were in the house. As for the real Mr Wilson, whom I called forth to combat, by mistake, he is the neighbour and intimate friend of old Mr Dennison, and this connection had suggested to the son the idea of taking that name while he remained in obscurity.

You may easily conceive what pleasure I must have felt on discovering that the honour of our family was in no danger from the conduct of a sister, whom I love with uncommon affection; that, instead of debasing her sentiments and views to a wretched stroller, she had really captivated the heart of a gentleman, her equal in rank and superior in fortune; and that, as his parents approved of his attachment, I was

on the eve of acquiring a brother-in-law so worthy of my friendship and esteem. George Dennison is, without all question, one of the most accomplished young fellows in England. His person is at once elegant and manly, and his understanding highly cultivated. Though his spirit is lofty, his heart is kind; and his manner so engaging, as to command veneration and love, even from malice and indifference. When I weigh my own character with his, I am ashamed to find myself so light in the balance; but the comparison excites no envy—I propose him as a model for imitation—I have endeavoured to recommend myself to his friendship, and hope I have already found a place in his affection. I am, however, mortified to reflect what flagrant injustice we every day commit, and what absurd judgment we form, in viewing objects through the falsifying medium of prejudice and passion. Had you asked me a few days ago, the picture of Wilson the player, I should have drawn a portrait very unlike the real person and character of George Dennison—Without all doubt, the greatest advantage acquired in travelling and perusing mankind in the original, is that of dispelling those shameful clouds that darken the faculties of the mind, preventing it from judging with candour and precision.

The real Wilson is a great original, and the best tempered, companionable man I ever knew——I question if ever he was angry or low-spirited in his life. He makes no pretensions to letters; but he is an adept in every thing else that can be either useful or entertaining. Among other qualifications, he is a complete sportsman, and counted the best shot in the county. He and Dennison, and Lismahago and I, attended by Clinker, went a shooting yesterday, and made great havock among the partridges——To-morrow we shall take the field against the woodcocks and snipes. In the evening
we

we dance and sing, or play at commerce, loo and quadrille.

Mr Dennison is an elegant poet, and has written some detached pieces on the subject of his passion for Liddy, which must be very flattering to the vanity of a young woman—Perhaps he is one of the greatest theatrical geniuses that ever appeared. He sometimes entertains us with reciting favourite speeches from our best plays. We are resolved to convert the great hall into a theatre, and get up the *Beaux Stratagem* without delay—I think I shall make no contemptible figure in the character of *Scrub*; and Lismahago will be very great in *Captain Gibbit*—Willon undertakes to entertain the country people with *Harlequin Skeleton* for which he has got a jacket ready painted with his own hand.

Our society is really enchanting. Even the severity of Lismahago relaxes, and the vinegar of Mrs Tabby is remarkably dulcified ever since it was agreed that she should take the precedency of her niece in being first noosed: for, you must know, the day is fixed for Liddy's marriage: and the banns for both couples have been already once published in the parish church. The captain earnestly begged that one trouble might serve for all, and Tabitha assented with a vile affectation of reluctance. Her innamorato, who came hither very slenderly equipt, has sent for his baggage to London, which, in all probability, will not arrive in time for the wedding; but it is of no great consequence, as every thing is to be transacted with the utmost privacy. Meanwhile directions are given for making out the contracts of marriage, which are very favourable for both females. Liddy will be secured in a good jointure, and her aunt will remain mistress of her own fortune, except one half of the interest which her husband shall have a right to enjoy for his natural life: I think this is as little in con-

science as can be done for a man who yokes with such a partner for life.

These expectants seem to be so happy, that if Mr Dennison had an agreeable daughter, I believe, I should be for making the third couple in this country-dance: The humour seems to be infectious; for Clinker, alias Loyd, has a month's mind to play the fool, in the same fashion, with Mrs Winifred Jenkins. He has even sounded me on the subject; but I have given him no encouragement to prosecute this scheme:—I told him I thought he might do better, as there was no engagement nor promise subsisting; that I did not know what designs my uncle might have formed for his advantage; but I was of opinion, that he should not, at present, run the risk of disobliging him by any premature application of this nature.——Honest Humphry protested, he would suffer death sooner than say or do any thing that should give offence to the 'squire; but he owned he had a kindness for the young woman, and had reason to think she looked upon him with a favourable eye; that he considered this mutual manifestation of good will as an engagement understood, which ought to be binding to the conscience of an honest man; and he hoped the 'squire and I would be of the same opinion, when we should be at leisure to bestow any thought about the matter.——I believe he is in the right; and we shall find time to take his case into consideration——You see we are fixed for some weeks at least; and as you have had a long respite, I hope you will begin immediately to discharge the arrears due to

Your affectionate

Oct. 14.

J. MELFORD.

To

To Miss LÆTITIA WILLIS, at Gloucester.

MY DEAR, DEAR, LETTY,

NEVER did I sit down to write in such agitation as I now feel—— In the course of a few days, we have met with a number of incidents so wonderful and interesting, that all my ideas are thrown into confusion and perplexity—— You must not expect either method or coherence in what I am going to relate—— my dearest Willis—— Since my last, the aspect of affairs is totally changed!—— and so changed!—— but, I would fain give you a regular detail. In passing a river, about eight days ago, our coach was overturned, and some of us narrowly escaped with life—— My uncle had well nigh perished. O Heaven, I cannot reflect upon that circumstance without horror—— I should have lost my best friend, my father, and protector, but for the resolution and activity of his servant Humphry Clinker, whom Providence really seems to have placed near him for the necessity of this occasion—— I would not be thought superstitious: but surely he acted from a stronger impulse than common fidelity. Was it not the voice of nature that loudly called upon him to save the life of his own father? for, O Letty, it was discovered that Humphry Clinker was my uncle's natural son.

Almost at the same instant, a gentleman, who came to offer us his assistance, and invited us to his house, turned out to be a very old friend of Mr Bramble.—— His name is Mr Dennison, one of the worthiest men living; and his lady is a perfect saint upon earth. They have an only son—— who do you think is this only son!—— O Letty!—— O gracious Heaven! how my heart palpitates, when I tell you, that this only
son

son of Mr Dennison, is that very identical youth, who, under the name of Wilton, has made such a ravage in my heart!—Yes, my dear friend! Wilton and I are now lodged in the same house, and converse together freely—His father approves of his sentiments in my favour; his mother loves me with all the tenderness of a parent: my uncle, my aunt, and my brother, no longer oppose my inclinations—On the contrary, they have agreed to make us happy without delay; and in three weeks, or a month, if no unforeseen accident intervenes, your friend, Lydia Melford, will have changed her name and condition—I say, if *no accident intervenes* because such a torrent of success makes me tremble!—I wish there may not be something treacherous in this sudden reconciliation of fortune—I have no merit—I have no title to such felicity! Far from enjoying the prospect that lies before me, my mind is harrassed with a continued tumult made up of hopes and wishes, doubts and apprehensions.—I can neither eat nor sleep, and my spirits are in perpetual flutter.—I more than ever feel that vacancy in my heart, which your presence alone can fill.—The mind, in every disquiet, seeks to repose itself on the bosom of a friend; and this is such a trial as I really know not how to support without your company and counsel—I must therefore, dear Letty, put your friendship to the test. I must beg you will come and do the last offices of maidenhood to your companion Lydia Melford.

This letter goes inclosed in one to our worthy governess, from Mrs Dennison, entreating her to interpose with your mamma, that you may be allowed to favour us with your company on this occasion; and I flatter myself, that no material objection can be made to our request. The distance from hence to Gloucester does not exceed one hundred miles, and the roads are good. Mr Clinker, alias Loyd, shall be sent over to attend your motions——

If

If you step into the post-chaise, with your maid Betty Barker, at seven in the morning, you will arrive by four in the afternoon at the half-way house, where there is good accommodation. There you shall be met by my brother and myself, who will next day conduct you to this place, where, I am sure, you will find yourself perfectly at your ease in the midst of an agreeable society. — Dear Letty, I will take no refusal — if you have any friendship — any humanity — you will come. — I desire that immediate application may be made to your mamma; and that the moment her permission is obtained, you will apprise

Your ever faithful,

Oct. 14.

LYDIA MELFORD.

To Mrs JERMYN, at her house in Gloucester,

DEAR MADAM,

THOUGH I was not so fortunate as to be favoured with an answer to the letter with which I troubled you in the spring, I still flatter myself that you retain some regard for me and my concerns. I am sure the care and tenderness with which I was treated, under your roof and tuition, demand the warmest returns of gratitude and affection on my part, and these sentiments, I hope, I shall cherish to my dying day — At present, I think it my duty to make you acquainted with the happy issue of that indiscretion by which I incurred your displeasure — Ah! Madam, the slighted Wilson is metamorphosed into George Dennison, only son and heir of a gentleman, whose character is second to none in England, as you may understand

stand upon enquiry. My guardians, my brother and I, are now in his house; and an immediate union of the families is to take place in the persons of the young gentleman and your poor Lydia Melford.—You will easily perceive how embarrassing this situation must be to a young unexperienced creature like me of weak nerves and strong apprehensions; and how much the presence of a friend, and confidant would encourage and support me upon this occasion. You know, that of all the young ladies, Miss Willis was she that possessed the greatest share, of my confidence and affection; and therefore, I fervently wish to have the happiness of her company at this interesting crisis.

Mrs Dennison, who is the object of universal love and esteem, has, at my request, written to you on this subject, and I now beg leave to reinforce her solicitation. My dear Mrs Jermyn! my ever honoured governess! let me conjure you by that fondness which once distinguished your favourite Liddy! by that benevolence of heart which disposes you to promote the happiness of your fellow creatures in general! lend a favourable ear to my petition, and use your influence with Litty's mamma, that my most earnest desire may be gratified. Should I be indulged in this particular, I will engage to return her safe, and even to accompany her to Gloucester, where, if you will give me leave, I will present to you, under another name,

Dear Madam,

Your most affectionate

Humble servant,

and penitent,

Oct. 14.

LYDIA MELFORD.

To Mrs MARY JONES, at Brambleton-hall.

O MARY JONES! MARY JONES!

I HAVE met with so many axidents, surprisals, and terrifications that I am in a perfect fantigo, and believe that I shall never be my ownself again. Last week I was dragged out of the river like a drowned rat, and lost a bran-new night-cap with a sulfur stay-hook, that cost me a good half crown, and an odd shoe of green gallow-monkey; besides wetting my clothes, and taring my smuck, and an ugly gash made in the back part of my thigh by the stump of a tree——To be sure, Mr Clinker tuck me out of the cox; but he left me on my back in the water to go to the 'squire; and I mought have had a watery grave, if a millar had not brought me to the dryland. But O! what choppings and changes, girl. The player man that came after Miss Liddy, and frightened me with a beard at Bristol Well, is now matthewmurphy'd into a fine young gentleman, son and hare of 'squire Dollison. We are altogether in the same house, and all parties have agreed to the match, and in a fortnite the furrymony will be performed.

But this is not the only wedding we are to have——Mistris is resolved to have the same frolic, in the naam of God! Last Sunday in the parish crutch, if my own ars may be trusted, the clerk called the banes of marridge, betwixt Opaniah Lashmeheygo, and Tapitha Bramble, spinster; he mought as well have called her inkle-weaver, for she never spun an hank of yarn in her life——Young 'squire Dollison and Miss Liddy make the second kipple; and there might have been a turd, but times are changed with Mr Clinker——O, Molly, what

what do'st think? Mr Clinker is found to be a pye-blow of our own 'squire; and his right naam is Mr Matthew Loyd (thof God he nose how that can be;) and he is now out of livery, and wares ruffles—but I new him when he was out at elbows, and had not a rag to kiver his pistereroes; so he need not hold his head so high—He is for sartain very umble and com-pleasant, and purtests as how he has the same regard as before; but that he is no longer his own master, and cannot portend to marry without the 'squire's consent—He says he must wait with patience, and trust to Providence, and such nonsense.—But if so be as how his regard be the same, why stand shilly shally? Why not strike while the iron is hot, and speak to the 'squire without loss of time?—What subjection can the 'squire make to our coming together?—Thof my father wan't a gentleman, my mother was an honest woman. I didn't come on the wrong side of the blanket, girl. My parents were married according to the rights of holy mother crutch, in the face of men and angels—Mark that, Mary Jones.

Mr Clinker (Loyd I would say) had best look to his tackle. There be other chaps in the market, as the saying is. What would he say if I should except the foot and sarvice of the young squire's valley? Mr Machappy is a gentleman born, and has been abroad in the wars. He has a world of buck larning, and speaks French, and Ditch, and Scots, and all manner of outlandish lingos; to be sure he's a little the worse for the ware, and is much given to drink; but then he's good-tempered in his liquor, and a prudent woman mought wind him about her finger. But I have no thoughts of him, I'll assure you—I scorn for to do, or to say, or to think any thing that mought give umbreech to Mr Loyd, without further occasion.—But then I have such vapours, Molly,—I fit and cry by myself, and take ass of etida, and smill to burnt fathers, and kindal-snuffs; and I pray constantly for grease, that I may have a glimpse of the new-light, to shew me

me the way thro' this wretched veil of tares. And yet, I want for nothing in this family of love, where every sole is so kind and so courteous, that wan would think they are so many saints in heaven. Dear Molly, I recommend myself to your prayers, being, with my service to Saul,

Your ever loving,

and discounselled friend,

Oct. 14.

WIN. JENKINS.

To Dr LEWIS.

DEAR DICK,

YOU cannot imagine what pleasure I have in seeing your hand-writing, after such a long cessation on your side of our correspondence—Yet, Heaven knows, I have often seen your hand-writing with disgust—I mean when it appeared in abbreviations of apothecary's Latin—I like your hint of making interest for the reversion of the collector's place for Mr Lismahago, who is much pleased with the scheme, and presents you with his compliments and best thanks for thinking so kindly of his concerns—The man seems to mend, upon further acquaintance. That harsh reserve, which formed a disagreeable husk about his character, begins to peel off in the course of our communication—I have great hopes that he and Tabby will be as happily paired as any two draught animals in the kingdom; and I make no doubt, but that he will prove a valuable acquisition to our little society, in the article of conversation, by the fire-side in winter.

VOL. II.

U

Your

Your objection to my passing this season of the year at such a distance from home, would have more weight if I did not find myself perfectly at my ease where I am; and my health so much improved, that I am disposed to bid defiance to gout and rheumatism. I begin to think I have put myself on the superannuated list too soon, and absurdly fought for health in the retreats of laziness——I am persuaded that all valetudinarians are too sedentary, too regular, and too cautious——We should sometimes increase the motion of the machine, to *unclog the wheels of life*; and now and then take a plunge amidst the waves of excess, in order to case-harden the constitution. I have even found a change of company as necessary as a change of air, to promote a vigorous circulation of the spirits, which is the very essence and criterion of good health.

Since my last, I have been performing the duties of friendship, that required a great deal of exercise, from which I hope to derive some benefit. Understanding, by the greatest accident in the world, that Mr Baynard's wife was dangerously ill of a pleuritic fever, I borrowed Dennison's post-chaise, and went across the country to his habitation, attended only by Loyd (quondam Clinker), on horseback. As the distance is not above thirty miles, I arrived about four in the afternoon, and meeting the physician at the door was informed that his patient had just expired. I was instantly seized with a violent emotion, but it was not grief.——The family being in confusion, I ran up stairs into the chamber, where, indeed, they were all assembled——The aunt stood wringing her hands in a state of stupor of sorrow, but my friend acted all the extravagancies of affliction——He held the body in his arms, and poured forth such a lamentation, that one would have thought he had lost

lost the most amiable confort and valuable companion upon earth.

Affection may certainly exist independent of esteem; nay, the same object may be lovely in one respect, and detestable in another. The mind has a surprising faculty of accommodating, and even attaching itself, in such a manner, by dint of use, to things that are in their own nature disagreeable, and even pernicious, that it cannot bear to be delivered from them without reluctance and regret. Baynard was so absorbed in his delirium, that he did not perceive me when I entered, and desired one of the women to conduct the aunt into her own chamber

————— At the same time, I begged the tutor to withdraw the boy, who stood gaping in a corner, very little affected with the distress of the scene. These steps being taken, I waited till the first violence of my friend's transport was abated, then disengaged him gently from the melancholy object, and led him by the hand into another apartment; though he struggled so hard, that I was obliged to have recourse to the assistance of his valet de chambre. In a few minutes, however, he recollected himself, and folding me in his arms, "This (cried he) is a friendly office, indeed! ——— I know not how you came
? "hither, but, I think, Heaven sent you to prevent
" my going distracted. O Matthew! I have lost my
" dear Harriet! ——— my poor, gentle, tender creature, that loved me with such warmth and purity
" of affection ——— my constant companion of
" twenty years! ——— She's gone ——— she's gone for
" ever; Heaven and earth where is she? ——— Death
" shall not part us!"

So saying he started up, and could hardly be with-held from returning to the scene we had quitted ——— You will perceive it would have been very absurd for me to argue with a man that talked so madly. On all such occasions, the first torrent

of passion must be allowed to subside gradually.—— I endeavoured to beguile his attention by starting little hints, and insinuating other objects of discourse imperceptibly; and being exceedingly pleased in my own mind at this event, I exerted myself with such an extraordinary flow of spirits as was attended with success.—— In a few hours, he was calm enough to hear reason, and even to own that Heaven could not have interposed more effectually to rescue him from disgrace and ruin. That he might not, however, relapse into weaknesses for want of company, I passed the night in his chamber, in a little tent-bed brought thither on purpose; and well it was that I took this precaution, for he started up in bed several times, and would have played the fool, if I had not been present.

Next day he was in a condition to talk of business, and vested me with full authority over his household, which I began to exercise without loss of time, though not before he knew and approved of the scheme I have projected for his advantage. He would have quitted the house immediately; but this retreat I opposed.—— Far from encouraging a temporary disgust, which might degenerate into an habitual aversion, I resolved, if possible, to attach him more than ever to his Household Gods. I gave directions for the funeral to be as private as was consistent with decency; I wrote to London, that an inventory and estimate might be made of the furniture and effects in his town house, and gave notice to the landlord, that Mr Baynard should quit the premises at Lady day; I sent a person at work to take an account of every thing in the country house, including horses, carriages, and harness; I settled the young gentleman at a boarding-school, kept by a clergyman in the neighbourhood, and thither he went without reluctance, as soon as he knew that he was to be troubled no more with his tutor,

tutor, whom we dismissed.———The aunt continued very fullen, and never appeared at table, though Mr Baynard paid his respects to her every day in her own chamber; there also she held conferences with the waiting women and other servants of the family: but, the moment her niece was interred, she went away in a post-chaise prepared for that purpose: she did not leave the house, however, without giving Mr Baynard to understand that the wardrobe of her niece was the perquisite of her woman; accordingly that worthless drab received all the clothes, lace, and linen of her deceased mistress, to the value of five hundred pounds, at a moderate computation.

The next step I took was to disband that legion of supernumerary domestics, who had preyed so long upon the vitals of my friend: a parcel of idle drones, so intolerably insolent, that they even treated their own master with the most contemptuous neglect. They had been generally hired by his wife, according to the recommendation of her woman, and these were the only patrons to whom they paid the least deference. I had therefore uncommon satisfaction in clearing the house of those vermin. The woman of the deceased, and a chambermaid, a valet de chambre, a butler, a French cook, a master gardener, two footmen, and a coachman, I payed off, and turned out of the house immediately, paying to each a month's wages in lieu of warning. Those whom I retained, consisted of a female cook, who had been assistant to the Frenchman, a house-maid, an old lacquey, a postilion, and under gardener. Thus I removed at once a huge mountain of expence and care from the shoulders of my friend, who could hardly believe the evidence of his own senses, when he found himself so suddenly and so effectually relieved. His heart, however, was still subject to vibrations of

tendernefs, which returned at certain intervals, extorting fighs, and tears, and exclamations of grief and impatience: but thefe fits grew every day lefs violent and lefs frequent, till at length his reafon obtained a complete victory over the infirmities of his nature.

Upon an accurate inquiry into the ftate of his affairs, I find his debts amount to twenty thoufand pounds, for eighteen thoufand pounds of which fum his eftate is mortgaged; and as he pays five per cent. intereft, and fome of his farms are unoccupied, he does not receive above two hundred pounds a-year clear from his lands, over and above the intereft of his wife's fortune, which produced eight hundred pounds annually. For lightening this heavy burden, I devifed the following expedient.——His wife's jewels, together with his fuperfluous plate and furniture in both houfes, his horfes and carriages, which are already advertifed to be fold by auction, will, according to the eftimate, produce two thoufand five hundred pounds in ready money, with which the debt will be immediately reduced to eighteen thoufand pounds——I have undertaken to find him ten thoufand pounds at four per cent. by which mean he will fave one hundred a-year in the article of intereft, and perhaps we fhall be able to borrow the other eight thoufand on the fame terms. According to his own fcheme of a country life, he fays he can live comfortably for three hundred pounds a-year; but as he has a fon to educate, we will allow him five hundred; then there will be an accumulating fund of feven hundred a-year, principal and intereft, to pay off the incumberance; and, I think, we may modeftly add three hundred, on the prefumption of now leaſing and improving the vacant farms: fo that in a couple of years, I fuppoſe there will be above a thouſand a-year appropriated to liquidate a debt of fixteen thouſand.

We forthwith began to class and set apart the articles designed for sale, under the direction of an upholder from London; and that nobody in the house might be idle, commenced our reformation without doors, as well as within. With Baynard's good leave, I ordered the gardener to turn the rivulet into his own channel, to refresh the fainting Naiads, who had so long languished among mouldering roots, withered leaves, and dry pebbles——The shrubbery is condemned to extirpation; and the pleasure ground will be restored to its original use of corn-field and pasture.—Orders are given for rebuilding the walls of the garden at the back of the house, and for planting clumps of firs, intermingled with beech and chestnut, at the east end, which is now quite exposed to the surly blasts that come from that quarter. All these works being actually begun, and the house and auction left to the care and management of a reputable attorney, I brought Baynard along with me in the chaise, and made him acquainted with Dennison, whose goodness of heart would not fail to engage his esteem and affection.——He is, indeed, charmed with our society in general, and declares that he never saw the theory of true pleasure reduced to practice before.——I really believe it would not be an easy task to find such a number of individuals assembled under one roof, more happy than we are at present.

I must tell you, however, in confidence, I suspect Tabby of tergiversation.——I have been so long accustomed to that original, that I know all the caprices of her heart, and can often perceive her designs while they are yet in embryo——She attached herself to Lismahago, for no other reason but that she despaired of making a more agreeable conquest.——At present, if I am not much mistaken in my observation, she would gladly convert the widowhood

hood of Baynard to her own advantage—— Since he arrived, she has behaved very coldly to the Captain, and strove to fasten on the other's heart, with the hooks of overstrained civility.—— These must be the instinctive efforts of her constitution, rather than the effects of any deliberate design; for matters are carried to such a length with the lieutenant, that she could not retract with any regard to conscience or reputation. Besides she will meet with nothing but indifference or aversion on the side of Baynard, who has too much sense to think of such a partner at any time, and too much delicacy to admit a thought of any such connection at the present juncture—— Mean while I have prevailed upon her to let him have four thousand pounds at four per cent. towards paying off his mortgage. Young Dennison has agreed that Liddy's fortune shall be appropriated to the same purpose, on the same terms.—— His father will sell out three thousand pounds stock for his accommodation. Farmer Bland has, at the desire of Wilton, undertaken for two thousand; and I must make an effort to advance what further will be required to take my friend out of the hands of the Philistines. He is so pleased with the improvements made on this estate, which is all cultivated like a garden, that he has entered himself as a pupil in farming to Mr Dennison, and resolved to attach himself wholly to the practice of husbandry.

Every thing is now prepared for our double wedding. The marriage articles for both couples are drawn and executed; and the ceremony only waits until the parties shall have been resident in the parish the term prescribed by law. Young Dennison betrays some symptoms of impatience; but, Lismahago bears this necessary delay with the temper of a philosopher—— You must know, the Captain does not stand altogether on the foundation

tion of personal merit. Besides his half pay, amounting to two and forty pounds a-year, this indefatigable œconomist has amassed eight hundred pounds, which he has secured in the funds. This sum arises partly from the pay's running up while he remained among the Indians; partly from what he received as a consideration for the difference between his full appointment and the half-pay, to which he is now restricted; and partly from the profits of a little traffic, he drove in peltry, during his sachemship among the Miamis.

Liddy's fears and perplexities have been much assuaged by the company of one Miss Willis, who had been her intimate companion at the boarding-school. Her parents had been earnestly solicited to allow her making this friendly visit on such an extraordinary occasion; and two days ago she arrived with her mother who did not choose that she should come without a proper governante. The young lady is very sprightly, handsome, and agreeable, and the mother a mighty good sort of a woman; so that their coming adds considerably to our enjoyments. But we shall have a third couple yoked in the matrimonial chain. Mr Clinker Loyd has made humble remonstrance, through the canal of my nephew, setting forth the sincere love and affection mutually subsisting between him and Mrs Winifred Jenkins, and praying my consent to their coming together for life. I would have wished that Mr Clinker had kept out of this scrape; but as the nymph's happiness is at stake, and she has already some fits in the way of despondence, I, in order to prevent any tragical catastrophe, have given him leave to play the fool, in imitation of his betters; and I suppose we shall in time have a whole litter of his progeny at Brambleton-hall. The fellow is stout and lusty, very sober and conscientious; and the wench seems to be as great an enthusiast in love as in religion.

I wish

I wish you would think of employing him some other way, that the parish may not be overstocked.— You know he has been bred a farrier, consequently belongs to the faculty; and as he is very docil, I make no doubt, but, with your good instruction, he may be, in a little time, qualified to act as a Welch apothecary. Tabby, who never did a favour with a good grace, has consented, with great reluctance to this match. Perhaps it hurts her pride, as she now considers Clinker in the light of a relation; but, I believe, her objections are of a more selfish nature. She declares she cannot think of retaining the wife of Matthew Loyd in the character of a servant; and she foresees that on such an occasion, the woman will expect some gratification for her past services. As for Clinker, exclusive of other considerations, he is so trusty, brave, affectionate, and alert, and I owe him such personal obligations, that he merits more than all the indulgence that can possibly be shewn him, by

Yours,

Oct. 26.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Sir WATKIN PHILLIPS, Bart. at Oxon.

DEAR KNIGHT,

THE fatal knots are now tied. The comedy is near a close; and the curtain is ready to drop: but, the latter scenes of this act I shall recapitulate in order.—About a fortnight ago, my uncle made an excursion a-croßs the country, and brought hither a particular friend, one Mr Baynard, who has just lost his wife, and was for some time disconsolate, though, by all accounts, he had much more cause for joy than for sorrow at this event.—His countenance, however, clears up a-pace; and he appears

appears to be a person of rare accomplishments—— But we have received another still more agreeable reinforcement to our company, by the arrival of Miss Willis from Gloucester. She was Liddy's bosom friend at boarding school, and being earnestly solicited to assist at the nuptials, her mother was so obliging as to grant my sister's request, and even to come with her in person. Liddy, accompanied by George Dennison and me, gave them the meeting half way, and next day conducted them hither in safety. Miss Willis is a charming girl, and, in point of disposition, an agreeable contrast to my sister, who is rather too grave and sentimental for my turn of mind—— The other is gay, frank, a little giddy, and always good-humoured. She has, moreover, a genteel fortune, is well born, and remarkably, handsome.—— Ah Phillips! if these qualities were permanent—— if her humour would never change, nor her beauties decay, what efforts would I not make—— But these are idle reflections—— my destiny must one day be fulfilled.

At present we pass the time as agreeably as we can—— We have got up several farces, which afford unspeakable entertainment by the effects they produced among the country people, who are admitted to all our exhibitions.—— Two nights ago Jack Wilton acquired great applause in Harlequin Skeleton, and Lismahago surprised us all in the character of Pierot.—— His long lank sides, and strong marked features were all peculiarly adapted to his part.—— He appeared with a ludicrous stare, from which he had discharged all meaning: he adopted the impressions of fear and amazement so naturally, that many of the audience were infected by his looks; but when the skeleton held him in chace, his horror became most divertingly picturesque, and seemed to endow him with such præternatural agility as confounded

founded all the spectators. It was a lively representation of Death in pursuit of Consumption; and had such an effect upon the commonalty, that some of them shrieked aloud, and others ran out of the hall in the utmost consternation.

This is not the only instance in which the lieutenant had lately excited our wonder. His temper, which had been soured and shrivelled by disappointment and chagrin, is now swelled out, and smoothed like a raisin in plum-porridge. From being reserved and punctilious, he is become easy and obliging. He cracks jokes, laughs and banters, with the most facetious familiarity; and in a word, enters into all our schemes of merriment and pastime.———The other day his baggage arrived in the waggon from London, contained in two large trunks and a long deal box not unlike a coffin. The trunks were filled with his wardrobe, which he displayed for the entertainment of the company, and he freely owned, that it consisted chiefly of the *opima spolia* taken in battle. What he selected for his wedding suit, was a tarnished white cloth faced with blue velvet, embroidered with silver; but he valued himself most upon a tye perwig, in which he had made his first appearance as a lawyer about thirty years ago. This machine had been in buckle ever since, and now all the servants in the family were employed to frizz it out for the ceremony, which was yesterday celebrated at the parish church. George Dennison and his bride were distinguished by nothing extraordinary in their apparel. His eyes lightened with eagerness and joy, and she trembled with coyness and confusion. My uncle gave her away and her friend Willis supported her during the ceremony.

But my aunt and her paramour took the pas, and formed, indeed, such a pair of originals, as I believe, all England could not parallel. She was dressed in
the

the stile of 1739; and the day being cold, put on a mantle of green velvet laced with gold: but this was taken off by the bridegroom, who threw over her shoulders a fur cloak of American fables, valued at four score guineas, a present equally agreeable and unexpected. Thus accoutred, she was led up to the altar by Mr Dennison, who did the office of her father; Lismahago advanced in the military step with his French coat reaching no farther than the middle of his thigh, his campaign wig that surpasses all description, and a languishing leer upon his countenance, in which there seemed to be something arch and ironical. The ring which he put upon her finger, he had concealed till the moment it was used. He now produced it with an air of self complacency. It was a curious antique, set with rose diamonds: he told us afterwards it had been in his family two hundred years, and was a present from his grandmother. These circumstances, agreeably flattered the pride of our aunt Tabitha, which had already found uncommon gratification in the Captain's generosity; for he had, in the morning, presented my uncle with a fine bear's skin, and a Spanish fowling-piece, and me with a case of pistols curiously mounted with silver. At the same time, he gave Mrs Jenkins an Indian purse, made of silk grass, containing twenty crown pieces. You must know, this young lady, with the assistance of Mr Loyd, formed the third couple who yesterday sacrificed to Hymen. I wrote you in my last, that he had recourse to my mediation, which I employed successfully with my uncle; but Mrs Tabitha held out till the love sick Jenkins had two fits of the mother; then she relented, and those two cooing turtles were caged for life. Our aunt made an effort of generosity in furnishing the bride with her superfluities of clothes and linen, and her example was followed by my sister; nor did Mr

Bramble and I neglect her on this occasion. It was, indeed, a day of peace-offering———Mr Dennison insisted upon Liddy's accepting two bank notes of one hundred pounds each, as pocket money; and his lady gave her a diamond necklace of double that value. There was, besides, a mutual exchange of tokens among the individuals of the two families thus happily united.

As George Dennison and his partner were judged improper objects of mirth, Jack Wilson had resolved to execute some jokes on Lismahago, and after supper, began to ply him with bumpers, when the ladies had retired; but the Captain perceiving his drift, begged for quarter, alledging that the adventure in which he had engaged, was a very serious matter; and that it would be more the part of a good Christian to pray that he might be strengthened, than to impede his endeavours to finish the adventure.——He was spared accordingly, and permitted to ascend the nuptial couch with all his senses about him.——There he and his consort sat in state, like Saturn and Cybele, while the benediction posset was drank; and a cake being broken over the head of Mrs Tabitha Lismahago, the fragments were distributed among the by-standers, according to the custom of the ancient Britons, on the supposition that every person who ate of this hallowed cake, should that night have a vision of the man or woman whom Heaven designed should be his or her wedded mate.

The weight of Wilson's waggery fell upon honest Humphry and his spouse, who were bedded in an upper room, with the usual ceremony of throwing the stocking.——This being performed, and the company withdrawn, a sort of catterwauling ensued, when Jack found means to introduce a real cat shod with walnut-shells, which galloping along the boards, made such a dreadful noise as effectually discomfited
our

our lovers——Winifred screamed aloud, and shrunk under the bed-cloaths.——Mr Loyd, believing that Satan was come to buffet him *in propria persona*, laid aside all carnal thoughts, and began to pray aloud with great fervency.——At length, the poor animal, being more afraid than either, leaped into the bed, and mauled with the most piteous exclamation——Loyd, thus informed of the nature of the annoyance, rose and set the door wide open, so that this troublesome visitant retreated with great expedition; then securing himself, by means of a double bolt, from a second intrusion, he was left to enjoy his good fortune without further disturbance.

If one may judge from the looks of the parties, they are all very well satisfied with what has passed.——George Dennison and his wife are too delicate to exhibit any strong marked signs of their mutual satisfaction, but their eyes are sufficiently expressive——Mrs Tabitha Lismahago is rather fulsome in signifying her approbation of the Captain's love; while his deportment is the very pink of gallantry.——He sighs, and ogles, and languishes at this amiable object; he kisses her hand, mutters ejaculations of rapture, and sings tender airs; and, no doubt, laughs internally at her folly in believing him sincere——In order to shew how little his vigour was impaired by the fatigues of the preceding day, he this morning danced a Highland faraband over a naked back sword, and leaped so high, that I believe he would make no contemptible figure as a vaulter at Sadler's Wells——Mr Matthew Loyd, when asked how he relishes his bargain, throws up his eyes, crying, "For what we have received, Lord make us thankful: amen."——His help-mate giggles, and holds her hand before her eyes, affecting to be ashamed of having been in bed with a man.——Thus all these widgeons enjoy the novelty

of their situation; but, perhaps, their note will be changed, when they are better acquainted with the nature of the decoy.

As Mrs Willis cannot be persuaded to stay, and Liddy is engaged by promise to accompany her daughter back to Gloucester, I fancy there will be a general migration from hence, and that most of us will spend the Christmas holidays at Bath; in which case, I shall certainly find an opportunity to beat up your quarters. By this time, I suppose, you are sick of *alma mater*, and even ready to execute that scheme of peregrination which was last year concerted between you and

Your affectionate

Nov. 8.

J. MELFORD.

To Dr LEWIS.

DEAR DOCTOR,

MY niece Liddy is now happily settled for life; and Captain Lismahago has taken Tabby off my hands; so that I have nothing further to do, but to comfort my friend Baynard, and provide for my son Loyd, who is also fairly joined to Mrs Winifred Jenkins.—You are an excellent genius at hints.—Dr Arbuthnot was but a type of Dr Lewis in that respect.—What you observe of the vestry-clerk deserves consideration—I make no doubt but Matthew Loyd is well enough qualified for the office; but, at present you must find room for him in the house.—His incorruptible honesty and indefatigable care will be serviceable in superintending the œconomy of my farm; though I don't mean that he shall interfere with Barns, of whom I have no cause to complain—I am just returned

turned with Baynard, from a second trip to his house where every thing is regulated to his satisfaction.—He could not, however, review the apartments without tears and lamentation so that he is not yet in a condition to be left alone; therefore, I will not part with him till the spring, when he intends to plunge into the avocations of husbandry, which will at once employ and amuse his attention. Charles Dennison has promised to stay with him a fortnight, to set him fairly afloat in his improvements; and Jack Wilson will see him from time to time; besides, he has a few friends in the country, whom his new plan of life will not exclude from his society.—In less than a year, I make no doubt but he will find himself perfectly at ease both in his mind and body, for the one had dangerously effected the other; and I shall enjoy the exquisite pleasure of seeing my friend rescued from misery and contempt.

Mrs Willis being determined to return with her daughter, in a few days, to Gloucester, our plan has undergone some alteration. Jerry has persuaded his brother-in-law to carry his wife to Bath; and I believe his parents will accompany him thither.—For my part, I have no intention to take that route.—It must be something very extraordinary that will make me either to revisit Bath or London. My sister and her husband, Baynard and I, will take leave of them at Gloucester, and make the best of our way to Brambleton-hall, where I desire you will prepare a good chine and turkey for our Christmas dinner.—You must also employ your medical skill in defending me from the attacks of the gout, that I may be in good case to receive the rest of our company, who promise to visit us in their return from the Bath. As I have laid in a considerable stock of health, it is to be hoped you will not have much trouble with me in the way of physic, but I intend to work you on the side of exercise.—I have got an excellent fowling piece, from Mr Lismahago,

Lismahago, who is a keen sportsman, and we shall take the heath in all weathers.—— That this scheme of life may be prosecuted the more effectually, I intend to renounce all sedentary amusements, particularly that of writing long letters; a resolution, which, had I taken it sooner, might have saved you the trouble which you have already taken in reading the tedious epistles of

Oct. 14.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

To Mrs GWYLLIM, at Brambleton-hall.

GOOD MRS GWYLLIM,

HEAVEN, for wise purposes, hath ordained that I should change my name and citacion in life, so that I am not to be considered any more as manger of my brother's family: but as I cannot surrender up my stewardship till I have settled with you and Williams, I desire you will get your accunts ready for inspection, as we are coming home without further delay. My spouse, the captain, being subject to rum-maticks, I beg you will take great care to have the blew chamber, up two pair of stairs, well warmed for his reception. Let the sashes be secured, the crevices stopt, the carpets laid, and the beds well touselled. Mrs Loyd, late Jenkins, being married to a relation of the family, cannot remain in the capacity of a sarvant; therefore, I wish you would cast about for some creditable body, to be with me in her room. If she can spin and is mistress of plain-work, so much the better——But she must not expect extravagant wages——
having

having a family of my own, I must be more occumencical than ever. No more at present but rests

Your loving friend,

Nov. 20.

TAB. LISMAHAGO.

To Mrs MARY JONES, at Brambleton-hall.

MRS JONES,

PROVIDINCH hath bin pleased to make great halteration in the pasture of our affairs.——We were yesterday three kipple chined, by the grease of God, in the holy bands of mattermoney; and I now subscribe myself Loyd at your sarvice.——All the parish allowed that young 'squire Dallison and his bride was a comely pear for to see.——As for Madam Lashmiheygo, you nose her picklearities——her head, to be sure, was fintastical; and her spouse had herwrapt with a long marokin furze clock from the land of the selvidges, thof they say it is of immense bally.——The Captain himself had a huge haffock of air, with three tails and a tumdawdry coat, boddered with sulfur——Wan said he was a monkey bank; and the old botler swore he was the born imich of Titidall.——For my part, I says nothing, being as how the Captain has done the handsome thing by me——Mr Loyd was dressed in a little frog, and checket with gould binding; and thof he don't enter in caparison with great folks of quality, yet he has got as good blood in his viens as arrow private 'squire in the country; and then his pursing is far from contentible——Your humble sarvant had on a plain pea-green tabby sack, with my Runnela cap, ruff toupee, and side curls.——

They

They said I was the very moral of Lady Rickmanstone, but not so pale—that may well be, for her ladyship is my elder by seven good years and more.—Now, Mrs Mary, our satiety is to iuppurate.—Mr Milfart goes to Bath along with the Dallifons, and the rest of us push home to Wales, to pass our Christmarsh at Brampleton-hall.—As our apartments is to be the yallow pepper in the thurd story, pray carry my things thither.—Present my compliments to Mrs Gwillims, and I hope she and I will live upon dissent terms of civility.—Being by God's blessing, removed to a higher spear, you'll excuse my being familiar with the lower sarvents of the family; but, as I trust you'll behave respectful, and keep a proper distance, you may always depend upon the good will and purtection of

Yours,

Nov. 20.

W. LOYD.

F I N I S.

